

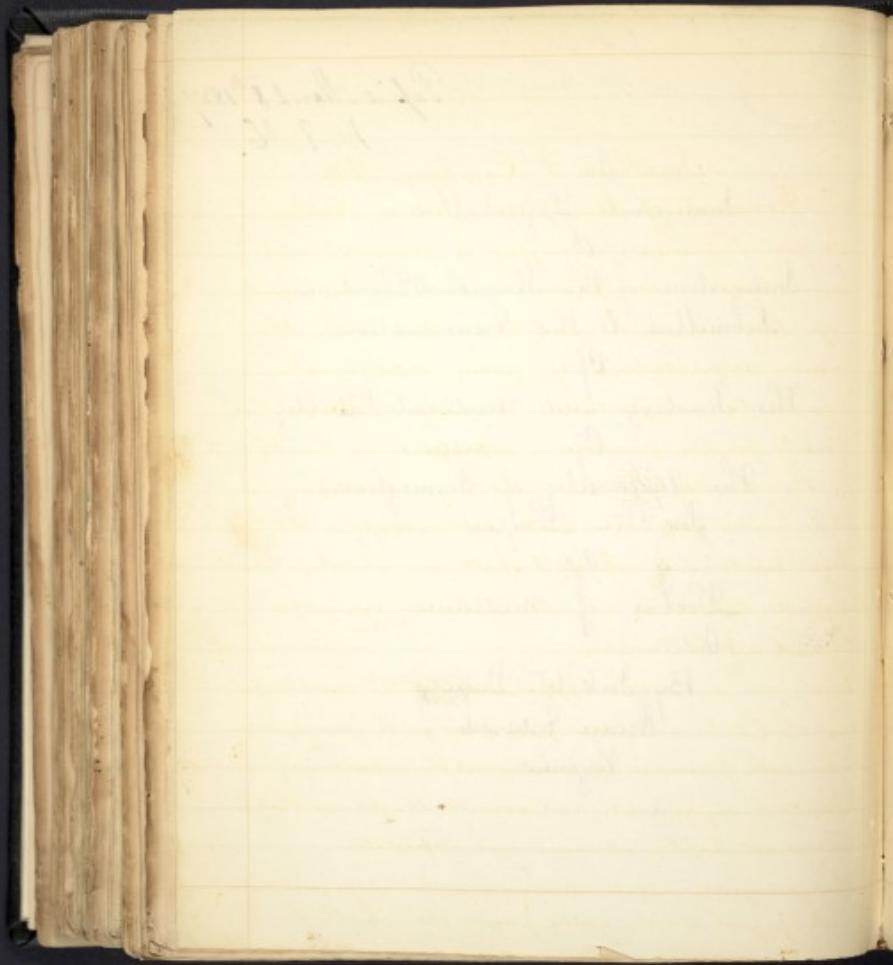
Septem
Vol 3

No 20
202

Ch 23

44 Sansom Pap'd March 8th 1827
W. L. H.

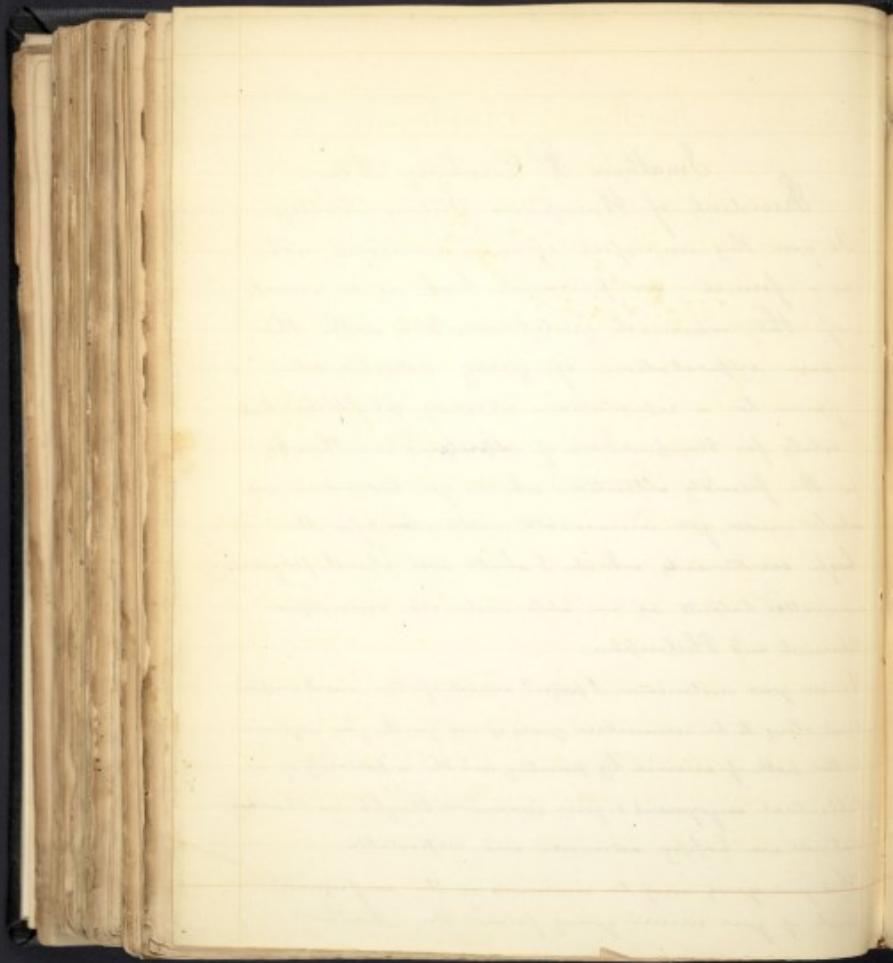
An
Inaugural Dissertation
On
Indigestion of the Stomach & Duodenum
Submitted to the Examination
Of
The Trustees and Medical Faculty
Of
The University of Pennsylvania
For the Degree
Of
Doctor of Medicine
On
By Jel W. Dupuy
Prince Edward
Virginia.



1

Jonathan P Cushing A.M.
President of Hampden Sidney College
To you this imperfect essay is dedicated, not
as a formal compliment, but, as a mark
of the warmest gratitude. Not with the
vain expectation of giving additional
fame to a reputation already established, but
solely for the purpose of expressing my thanks
for the friendly attention which you bestowed on me
while under your immediate instruction, & for the
high sentiments which I shall ever cherish for your
unrivalled talents as an able instructor scientific
Chemist and Philosopher.

Under your instruction I passed several of the most impor-
tant along to be remembered years of my youth, you urged me
to the path of science by pointing out the superiority of in-
tellectual enjoyment & your exhortations taught me that her-
eauties are happy, admired and respectable
That your years may be numerous is the unfeigned
wish of your sincere young friend, the Author

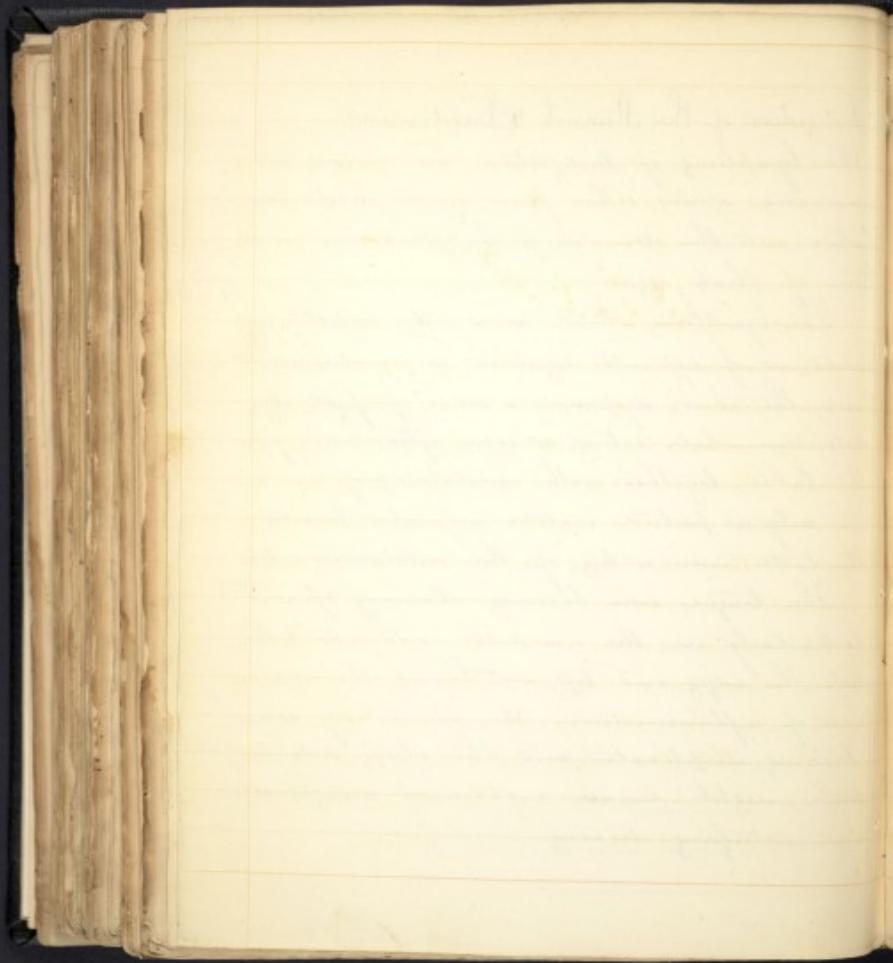


Indigestion of the Stomach & Duodenum.

The symptoms of Indigestion are various and numerous, arising either from crude substances taken into the stomach or the particular condition of that organ.

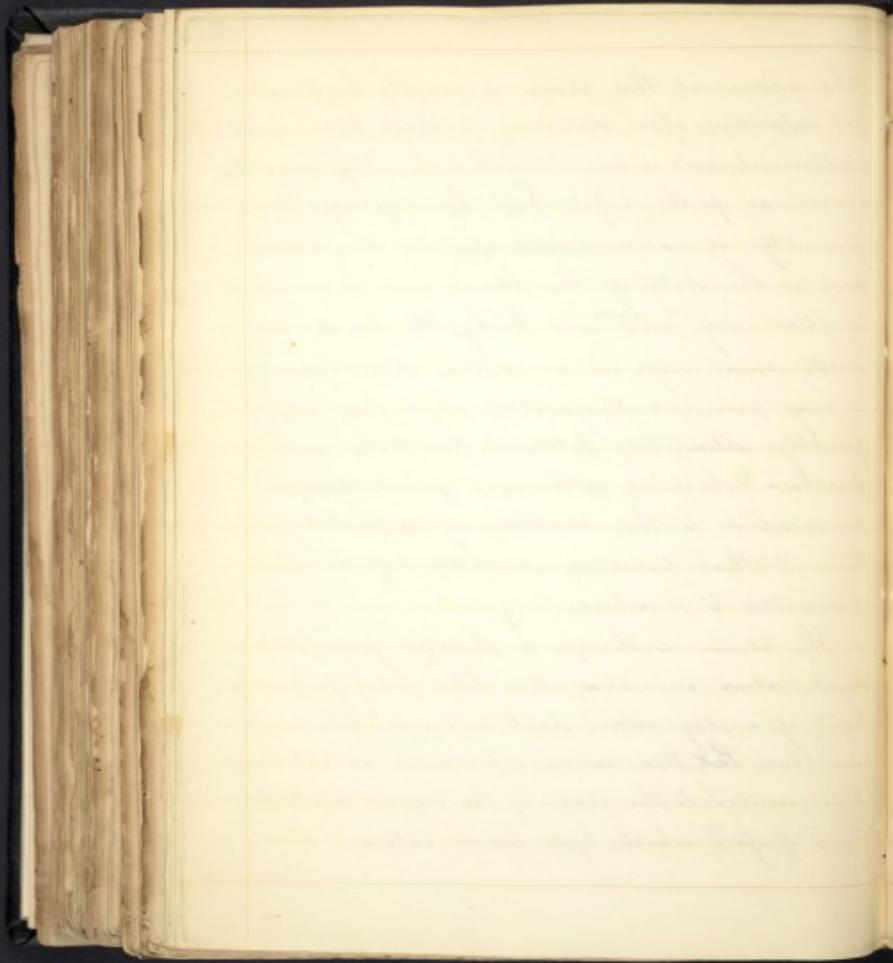
The symptoms which arise more directly from substances of difficult digestion, are a stricture across the chest, dyspnoea, a sense of fullness, distention while eating, or soon after rising from the table, together with eructations of an acid, oily or putrid nature and also having the taste, more or less, of the substance eaten.

The tongue soon becomes clammy & furred particularly in the middle and about the root, the edges and tip are ^{as} having the appearance of inflammation; the mind very soon becomes implicated, and the sleep disturbed with night mace, and most disagreeable and distressing dreams.



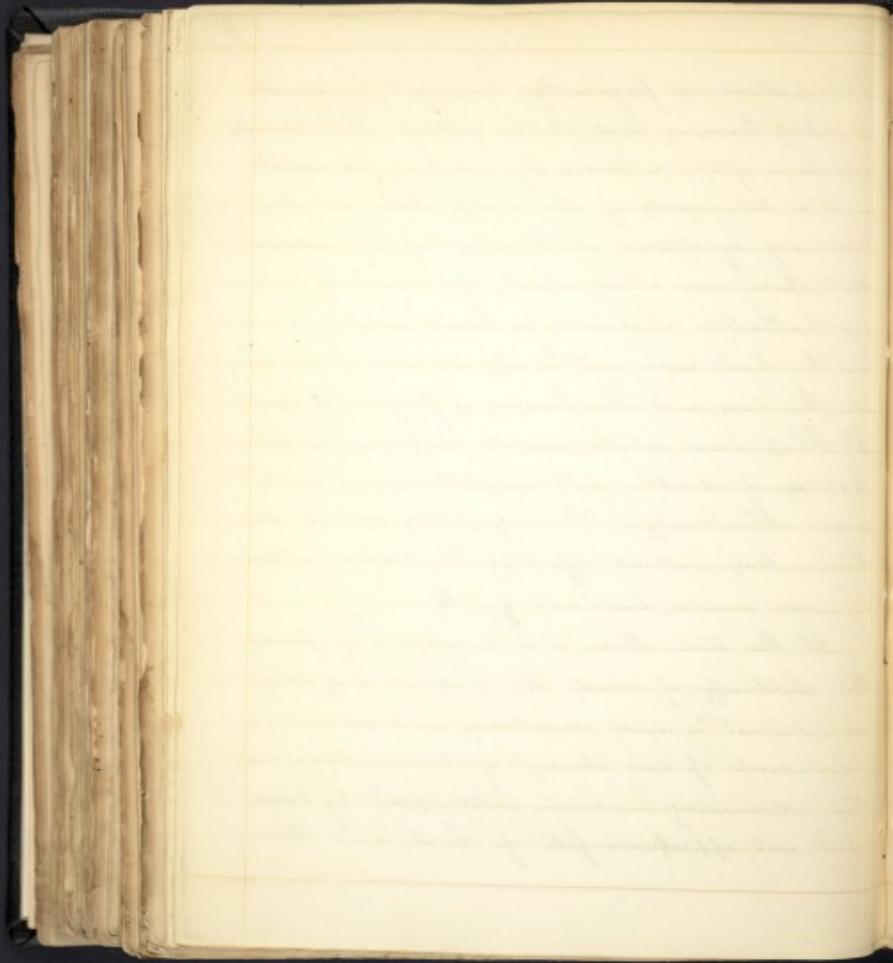
The urine at this stage is usually dark colour'd, depositing after standing a short time, a red sediment, and is cover'd with an oily or milky scum as if the urinæ had been greasy. The quantity is various, depending in a great measure on the state of the bowels and skin, which is often dry, cold and rheby; the bowels are most commonly in a costive state forming a very prominent symptom, but they are frequently alternating between this state and a diarrhoea, which is rather, as a general thing, to be ascribed to the irritation of impacted faeces, than to that peculiar condition of the bowels favourable to diarrhoea.

The urine discharge is changed from its natural colour, sometimes it is like bile, frequently bright of a clay colour, dark and even black, green and blue, ~~the~~ these various appearances are not always to be ascribed to the state of the organs, but to the kind of food which has been eaten.



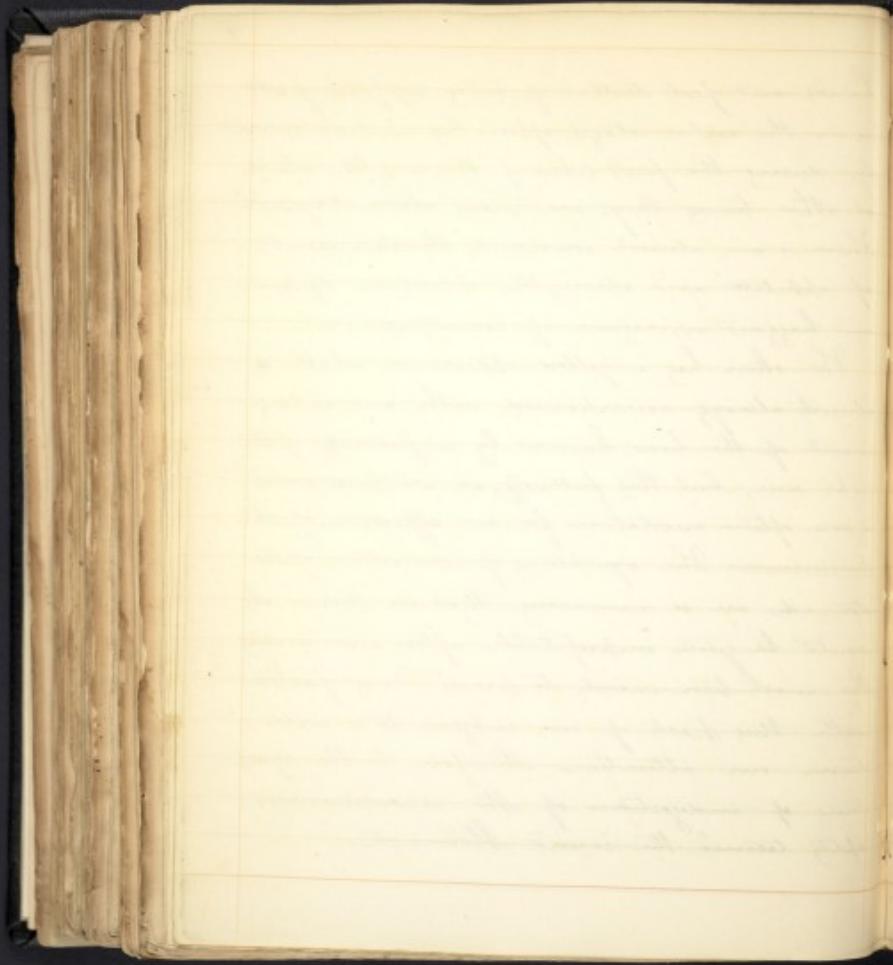
The patient is frequently harassed by nausea, vomiting, burning heat at the pits of the stomach which is often relieved by drinking ice water) and a tenderness of the scalp; these are the ordinary symptoms at this stage of the disease but, there are others which are more of a sympathetic character, as head-ach, pains in the head, side and breast; there is a ringing in the ears, and the hearing is frequently affected Dr. Chapman relates several instances in his lectures of double and inverted vision and even blindness. These symptoms do not continue long without affecting the pulse which is now small, hard and quick.

At this time there is a paroxysm of fever the chilliness of which the patient has long complained of now sometimes, and even independent of any change of temperature in the surrounding medium, interrupted by lacerating and oppressive fits of heat, and the

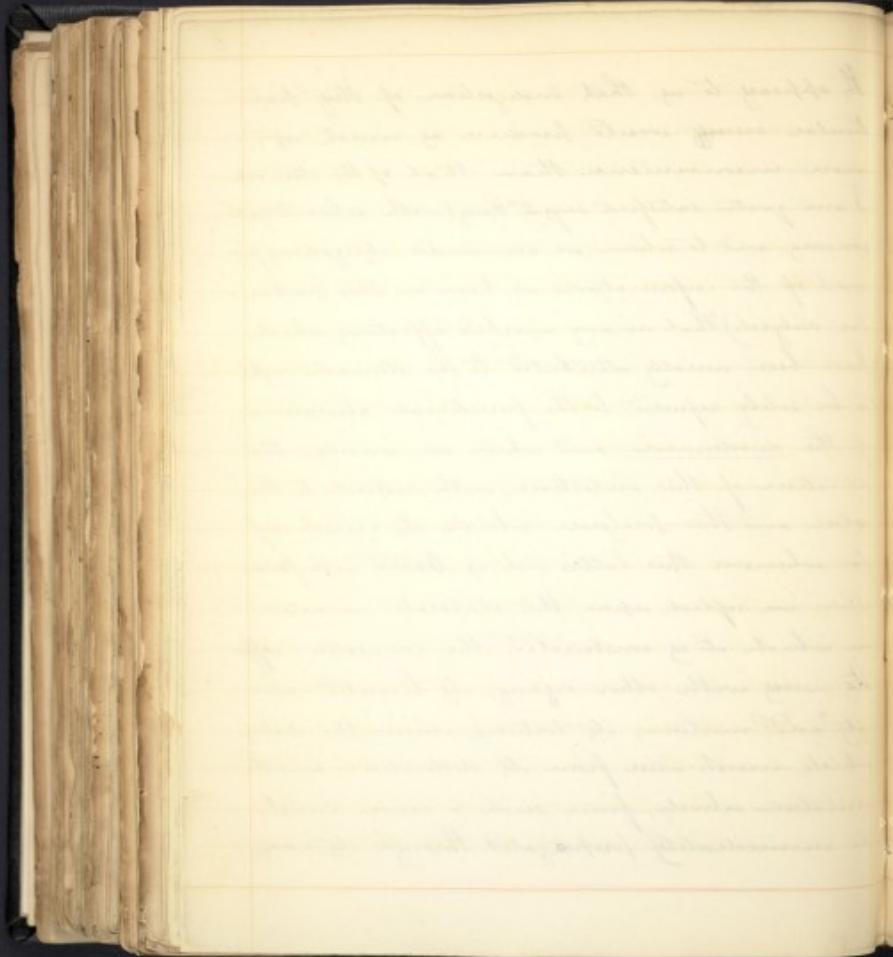


hands and feet instead of being uniformly cold, as in the earlier stages, often burn, particularly during the first part of the night, while at other times they are more obstinately cold. There is an almost constant thirst, a want of appetite and strength, oppressive dyspepsia and haggard expression of countenance.

The skin has a yellow appearance which is almost always accompanied with an enlargement of the liver, known by a fullness of the right side, but this fullness, we are persuaded is very often mistaken for an affection of the duodenum. The symptoms of indigestion of the stomach are so numerous that we deem it would be quite unprofitable after enumerating the most prominent, to proceed any farther with this part of our subject. We will turn our attention therefore to the symptoms of indigestion of the duodenum aptly termed the second Stomach.



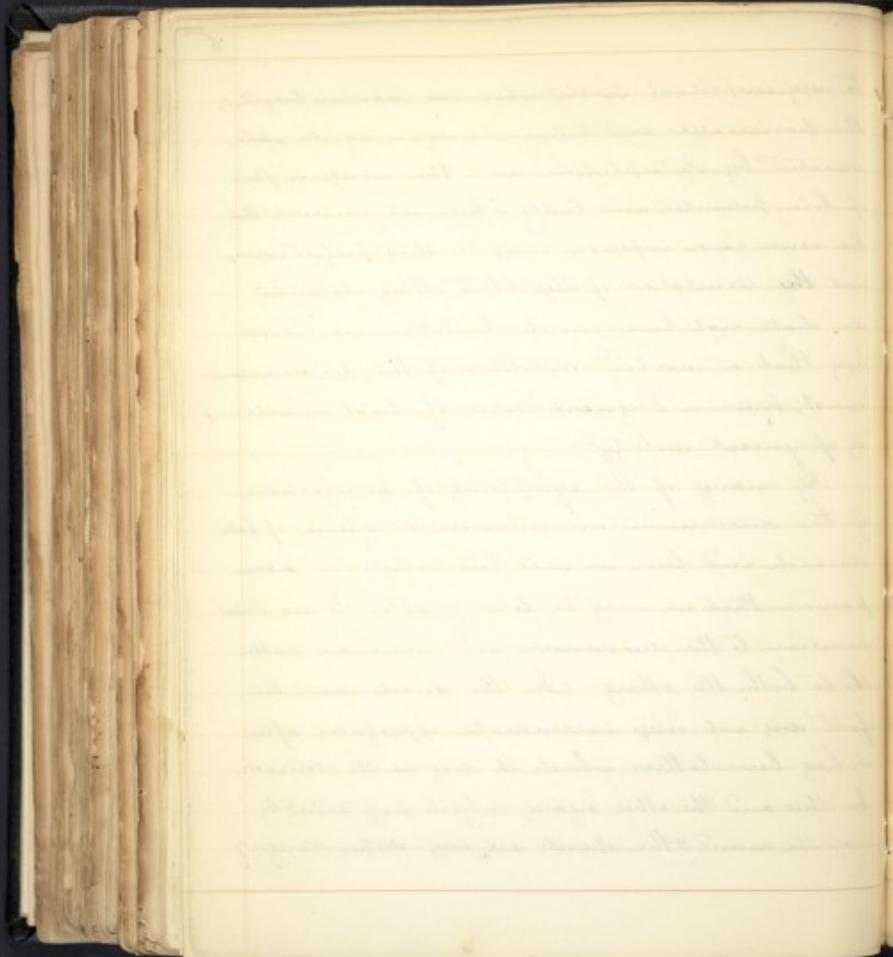
It appears to us that indigestion of the par-ticular viscera would produce as much, or more inconvenience than that of the stomach. I am quite satisfied says Dr. Parry (with whom Dr. Peter concurs, and to whom we are under obligation for most of the information we have on this particu-lar subject) that many morbid affections which have been usually attributed to the stomach ought to be solely referred to the functional aberration of the intestine; and when we consider the situation of this intestine, with respect to the color, and the pressure which it must suffer whenever this latter gets loaded with feces; when we reflect upon the elaborate manner in which it is constructed, the connection of its nerves with other organs, its limited capa-city and mortuary, its tortuous course, the distress which must arise from its obstruction, and the irritation which, from such a cause, must be immediately propagated through its nerves.



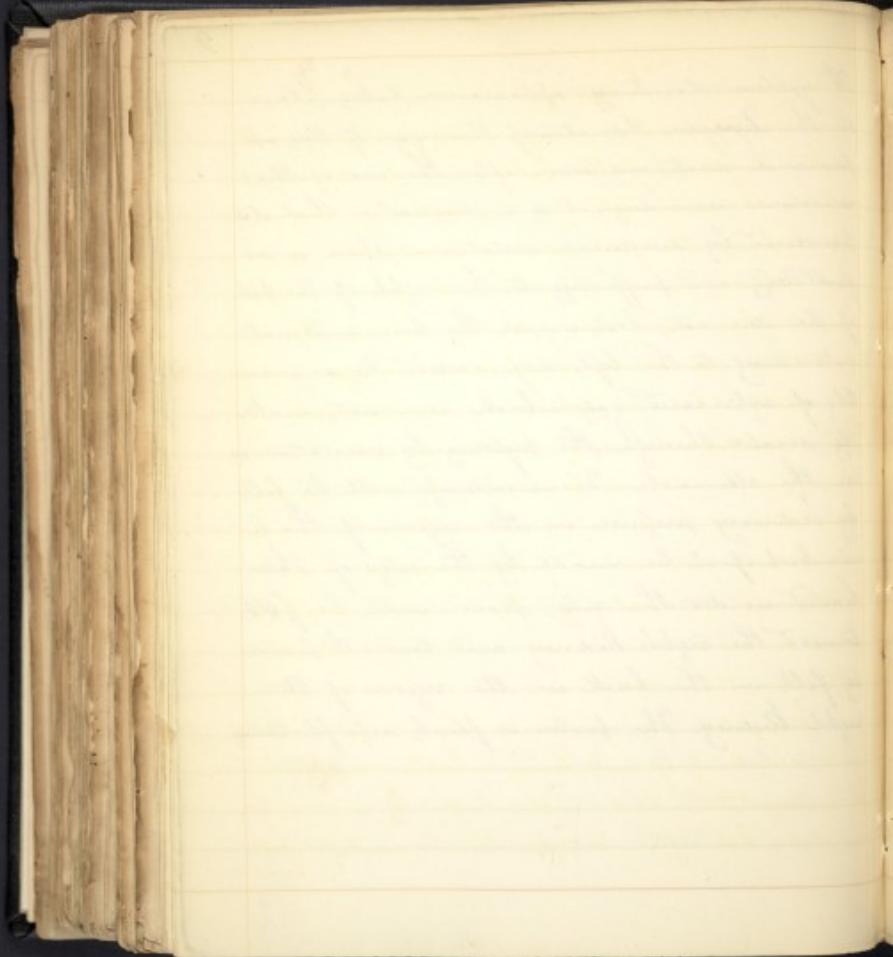
6

to very important party when we remember that,
the pancreatic and biliary ducts may be ob-
structed by its inflation and the necessary flow
of bile prevented; and lastly when we consider that
the vena cava inferior may be thus pressed upon
and the circulation of the blood thus obstructed;
we shall not have much hesitation in admitting
that a morbid condition of the duodenum
must prove a frequent source of local as well
as of general distress.

As many of the symptoms of indigestion
of the duodenum are common to disease of both
stomach and liver we will here introduce a con-
parison that we may be better enabled to see those
peculiar to the duodenum and common with
it to both the others. In the duodenum the
food does not cause immediate oppression after
it has been taken which it does in the stomach.
In this and the other organs subjects pass rapidly
away the mind & the spirits are very desponding.



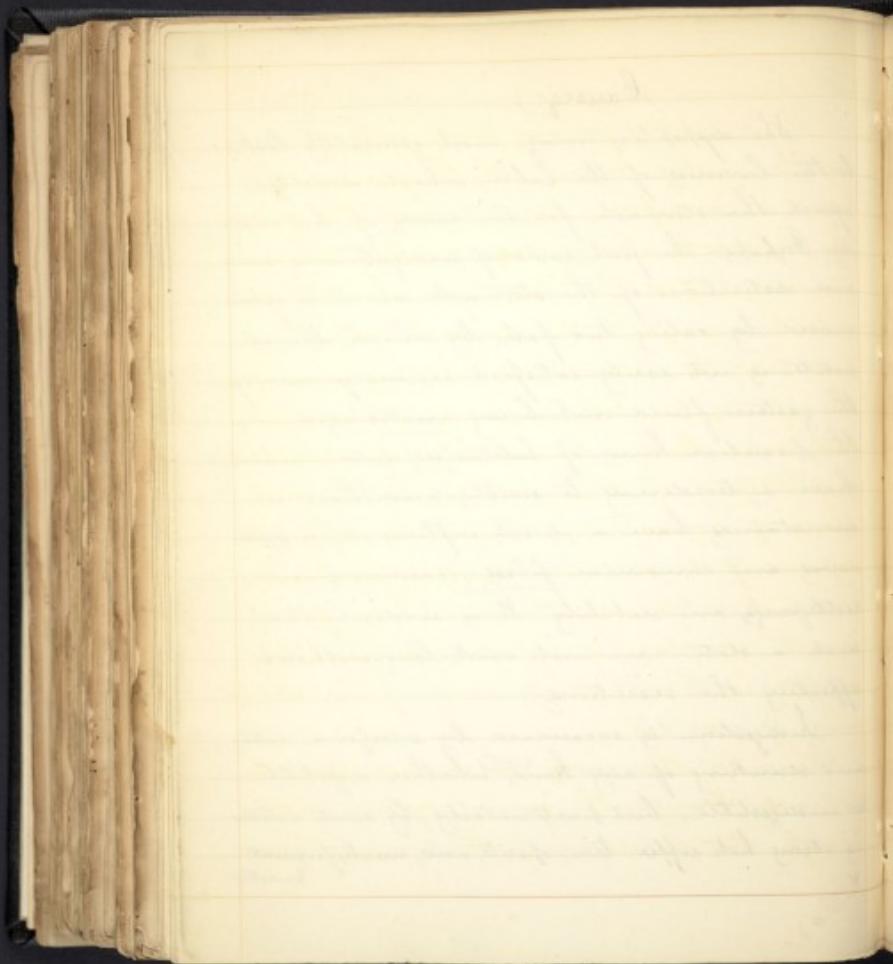
A yellow clammy appearance takes place in the Tropica Admata of the eyes. If this appearance disappears soon after the use of the common remedies, it is a diagnostic that it is produced by duodenal irritation. There is a fullness and puffiness to the right of the body of the stomach, lost under the liver and not extending to the left side, caused by a quantity of extricated gas, which can not make its escape through the pylorus by evacuation as in the stomach. No uneasiness will be felt by ordinary pressure in the region of the liver but if it be made by the edge of the hand under the ribs, pain will be felt toward the right kidney and back. A pain is felt in the back in the region of the right kidney. The pulse is faint and fluttering.



Causes.

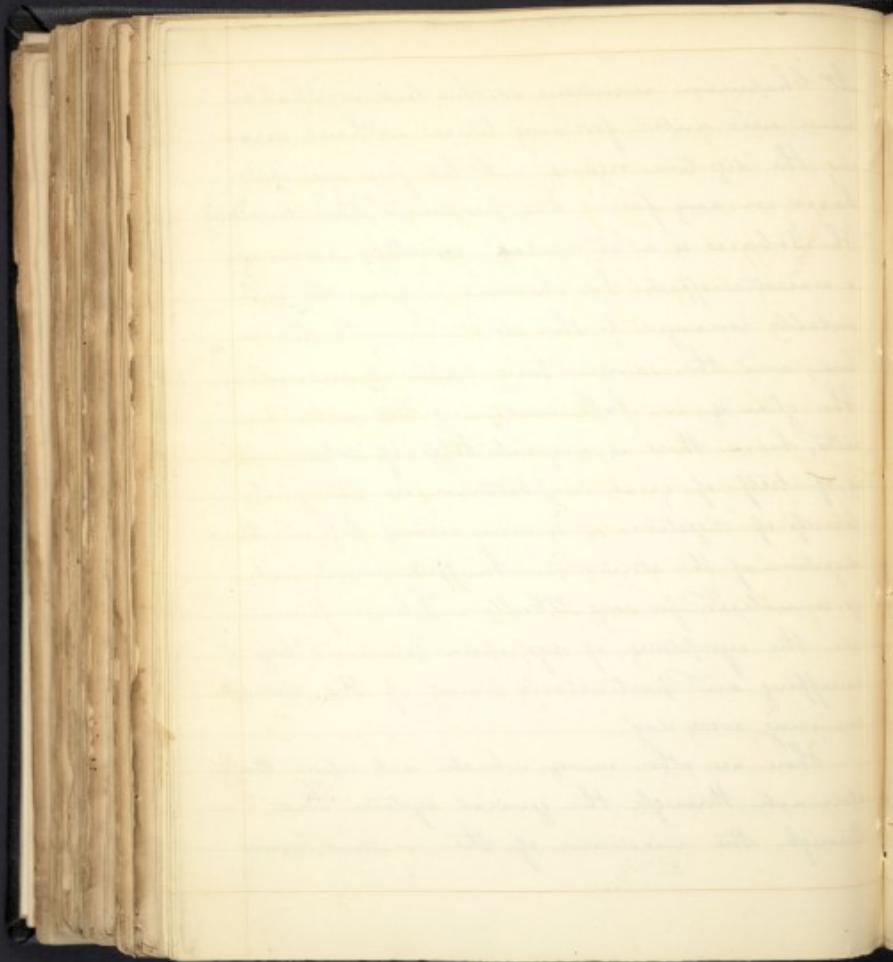
The dyspeptic may most generally look to the luxuriy of the table, which directly affects the stomach, for the cause of his malady. Perhaps, the first cause of indigestion is an over distention of the stomach which is often caused by eating too fast, by which the appetite is not easily satisfied in consequence of the gastric fluid not being neutralized; by the peculiar kind of substances eaten which have a tendency to swell, and these circumstances have a direct influence on the nerves and muscular fibres, causing pain, restlessness, and debility. It is evident that such a state can not exist long without affecting the secretions.

Indigestion is occasioned by excessive eating and drinking of any kind, whether digestible or indigestible, but particularly by such articles as strong hot coffee, tea, spirits, acids, meats, frequent
meats,

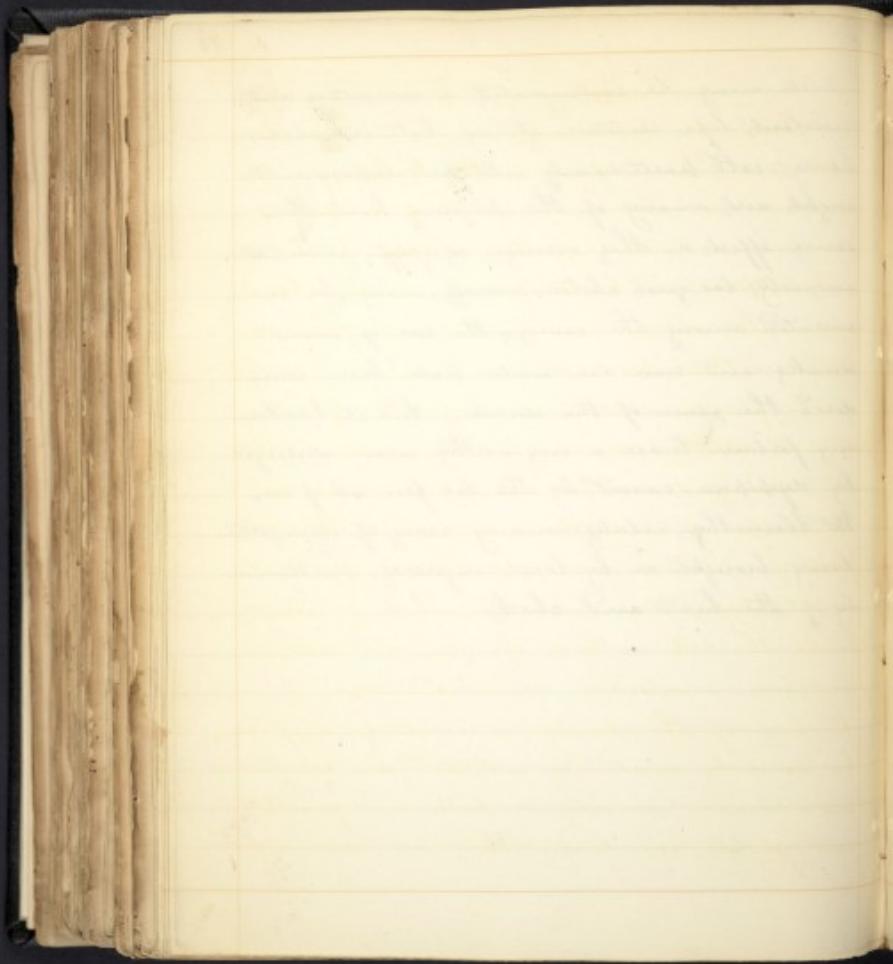


D^r Chapman mentions in his lectures that he never used nitre for any time without deranging the digestive organs. A too free use of Tobacco in any form has produced this disease. H^t Tobacco is a stimulant quickly producing a narcotic effect. In chewing a quantity is inevitably conveyed to the stomach with the saliva, and the same thing happens in smoking. The glands in both instances are unduly excited; hence there is a great loss of saliva which is, of itself, of great importance in the first process of digestion and is a serious loss in the digestion of the stomach. Snuffing must not go unnoticed, for says D^r Cullen "I have found all the symptoms of dyspepsia produced by snuffing and particularly pains of the stomach occurring every day".

There are other causes which act upon the stomach through the general system and through the medium of the mind, among



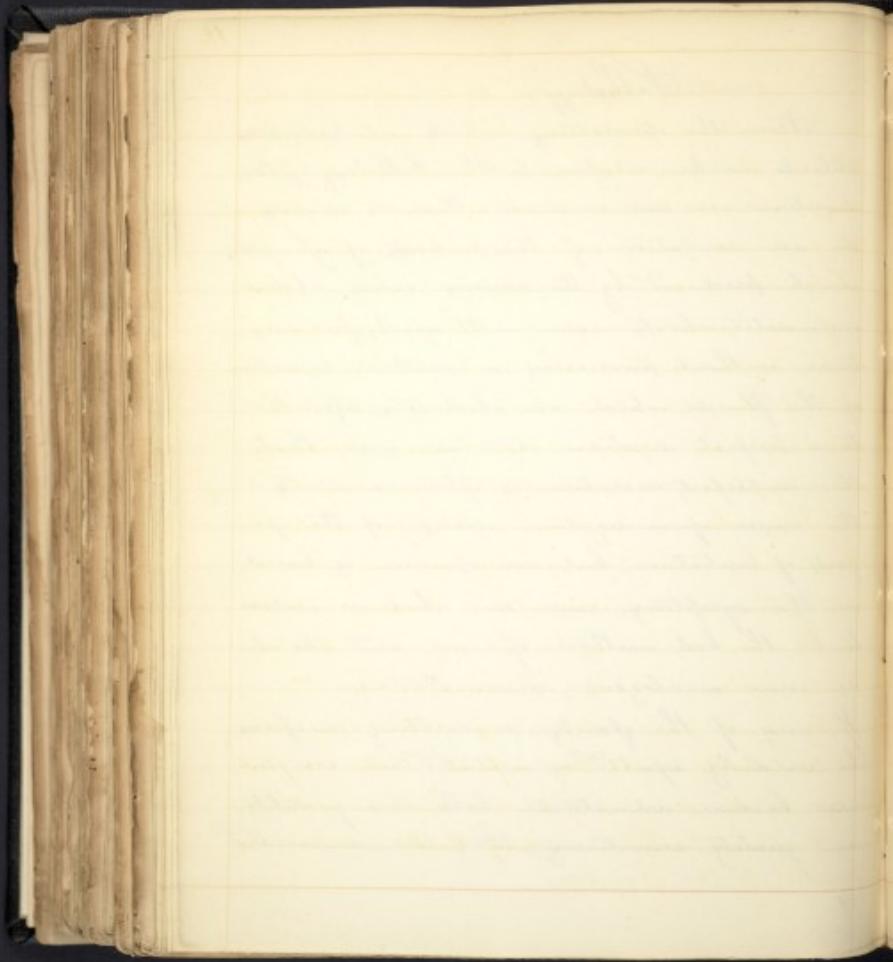
which may be enumerated a sedentary and
indolent life, intense study, late irregular
hours, cold, particularly cold feet, exposure to
night air; many of the passions have the
same effect on this viscous, as grief, mental
anxiety; too great abstinency may be even
enumerated among the causes, the use of warm
drinks and even ice water have been consi-
dered the cause of this disease; And it has been
my fortune to see a very worthy man destroyed
by dyspepsia, caused by the too free use of ice.
Mr Abernethy relates many cases of indigestion
being brought on by local injury, particu-
larly of the head and chest.



Pathology.

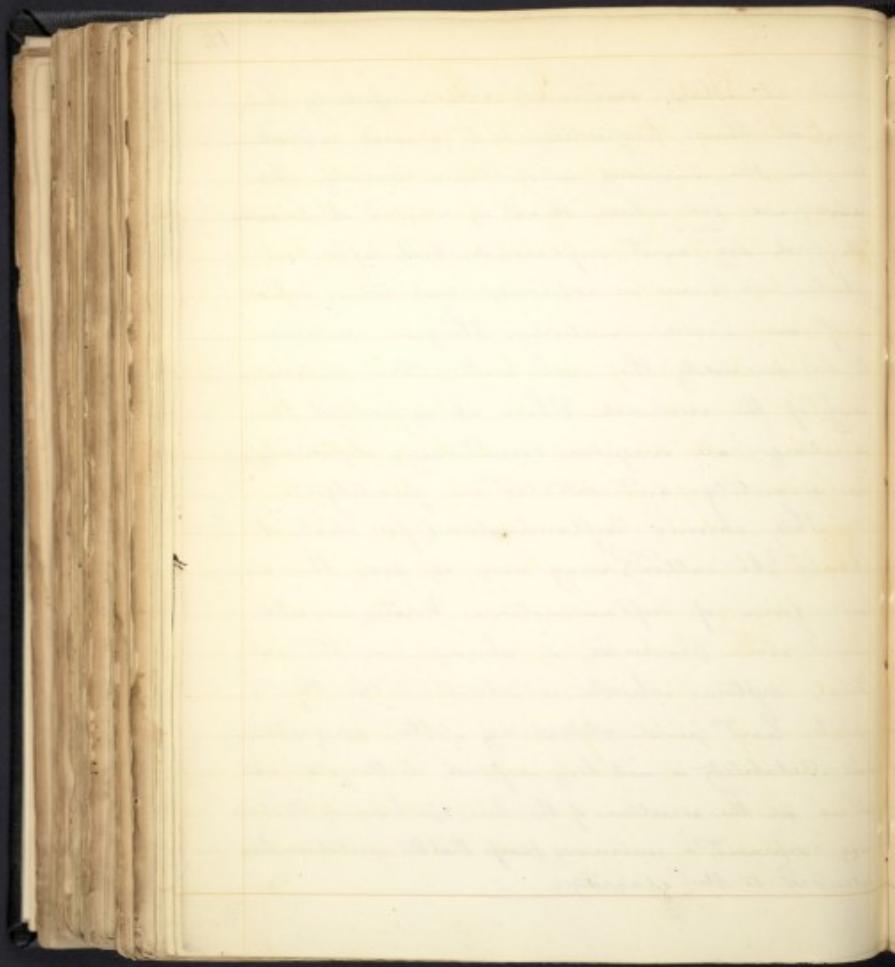
From the observations which we have been able to make relative to the Pathology of In-digestion we are convinced that, its consists in an irritation of the nerves of the stomach, produced by the various causes above enumerated, which can not exist for any time without producing a morbid secretion of the fluids, which are absolutely essential to a perfect digestion. We are aware that this imperfect secretion is often considered the cause of indigestion instead of the effect of irritation, but our opinion is based on the symptoms, cause, and what we conceive to be the best method of cure and also upon some analogizing circumstances.

If any of the glands or secreting surfaces be unduly excited or irritated we see fluids become unnatural both in quantity and quality, sometimes they are diminished



and at others, increased, but uniformly changed in their properties. This is well illustrated in the mucous membrane lining the nose; we see when that is excited it becomes at first dry and inflamed, but after a while we have a copious secretion, which is of an acrid nature. This we conceive to be precisely the case with the mucous coat of the stomach. When it is excited the secretions are irregular, sometimes deficient in quantity, and vitiated in quality.

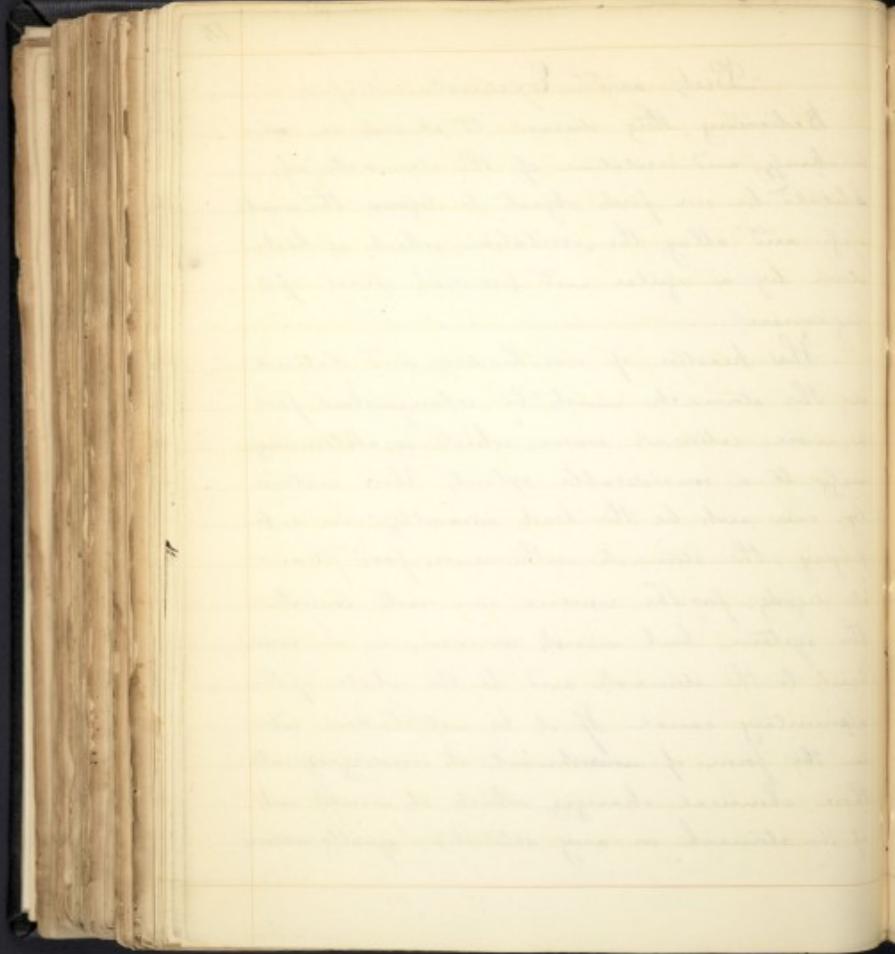
This chronic inflammation (for such it should be called) may vary as does the acute form of inflammation. Irritation soon produces a change in the arterial system, which is evidenced by the quick hard pulse & tenderness of the epigastrium, but irritability is not long confined to the stomach, for we see the secretion of the liver & perhaps of the pancreas deprived, a convincing proof that the irritation has extended to the glandry.



Bath and Exercise.

Believing this disease to consist in a weakness, and irritation of the stomach, it should be our first object to lessen the weakness and allay the irritation, which is best done by a regular and prudent course of regimen.

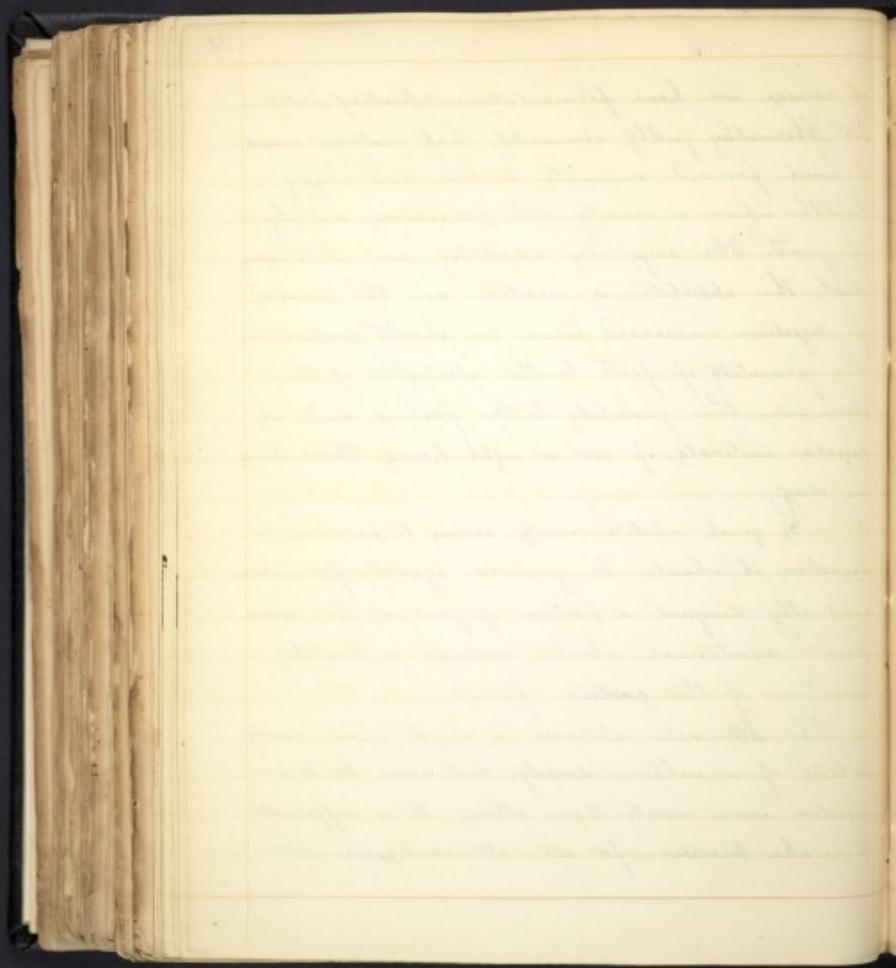
The practice of over-loading, and distending the stomach must be extinguished for a more rational course, which is abstaining to a considerable extent. There certain ly can not be the least advantage in supplying the stomach with more food than its digest, for the residue can not nourish the system, but must remain as an irritant to the stomach and to the whole of the alimentary canal. If it be not taken up in the form of nourishment, it undergoes all those chemical changes, which it would out of the stomach in any situation equally warm.



of course we have fermentation & putrefaction
Mr. Abernethy justly remarks, that nature seems
to have formed animals to live and enjoy
health upon a scanty and precarious supply
of food. He says by adapting an abstemious
diet, the appetite is created and the power
of digestion increased, hence we should proportion
the quantity of food to the strength of the
stomach, the quantity to the failing and at
regular intervals of six or eight hours three times
a day.

A great abstinence seems to produce in-
digestion, it should be guarded against, for nature
wisely designed a portion of food as the appro-
priate excitement which induces a healthy
secretion of the gastric fluid.

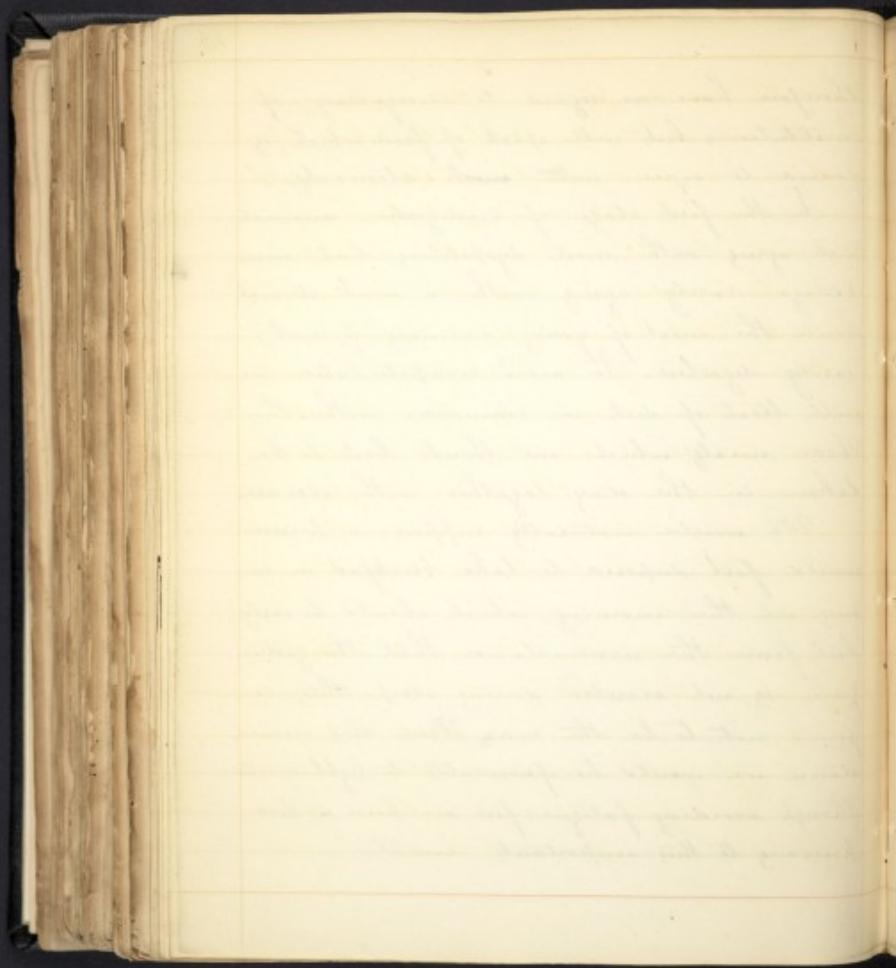
The Stomach appears to digest most easily
solids of a certain density, but some kinds are
digested more easily than others. It is difficult
to make provision for all stomachs, we will



therefore have no regard to idiosyncrasy of constitution, but will speak of food which is found to agree with most stomachs.

In the first stage of indigestion animal diet agrees with most dyspeptics, but maize rarely agrees with a weak stomach, hence the meat of young animals is not easily digested. To avoid recapitulation we will treat of diet in connection with the three meals which we think best to be taken in the day together with exercise.

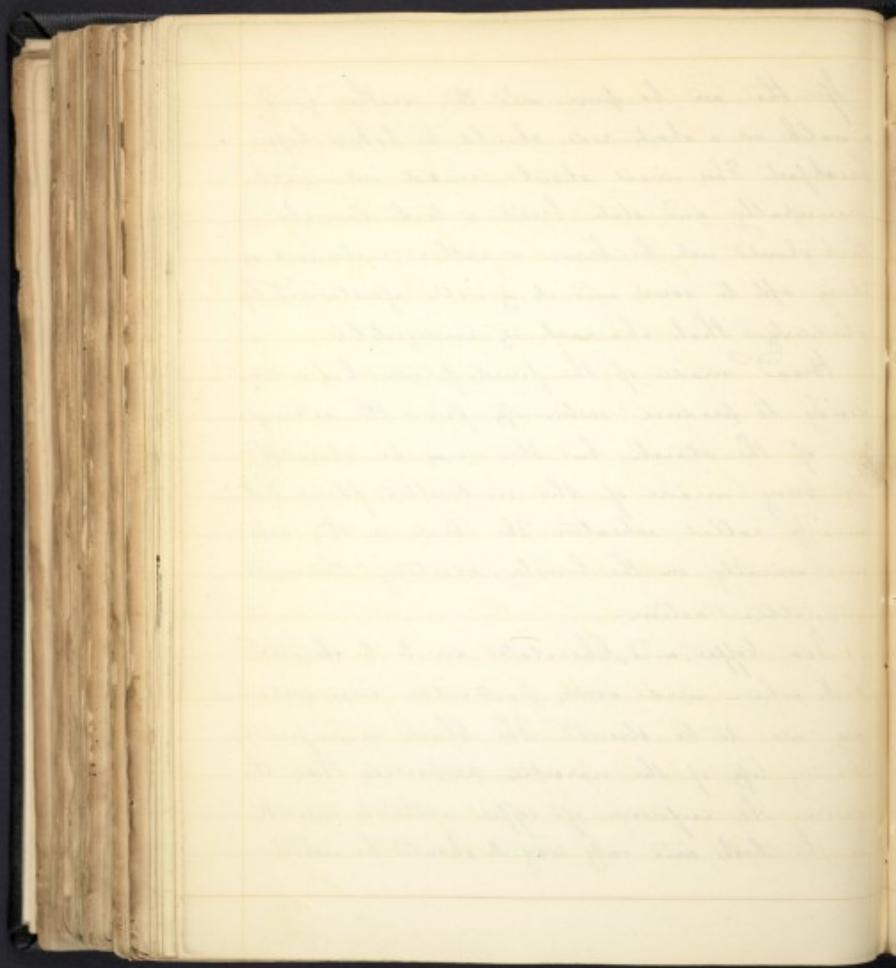
We would naturally suppose a person would feel disposed to take breakfast on rising in the morning, which should be early but from the circumstance that the gastric juice is not secreted during sleep, this is found not to be the case. From this circumstance we would be favourable to light exercise though avoiding fatigue, for an hour or two previous to this important meal.



If the air be pure and the weather good
a walk or a short ride should be taken before
breakfast. This meal should consist in milk
principally and stale bread or toast, though
that should not be brown or rather carbonised as
it is apt to sour, and it is well ascertained by
chemistry that charcoal is indigestible.

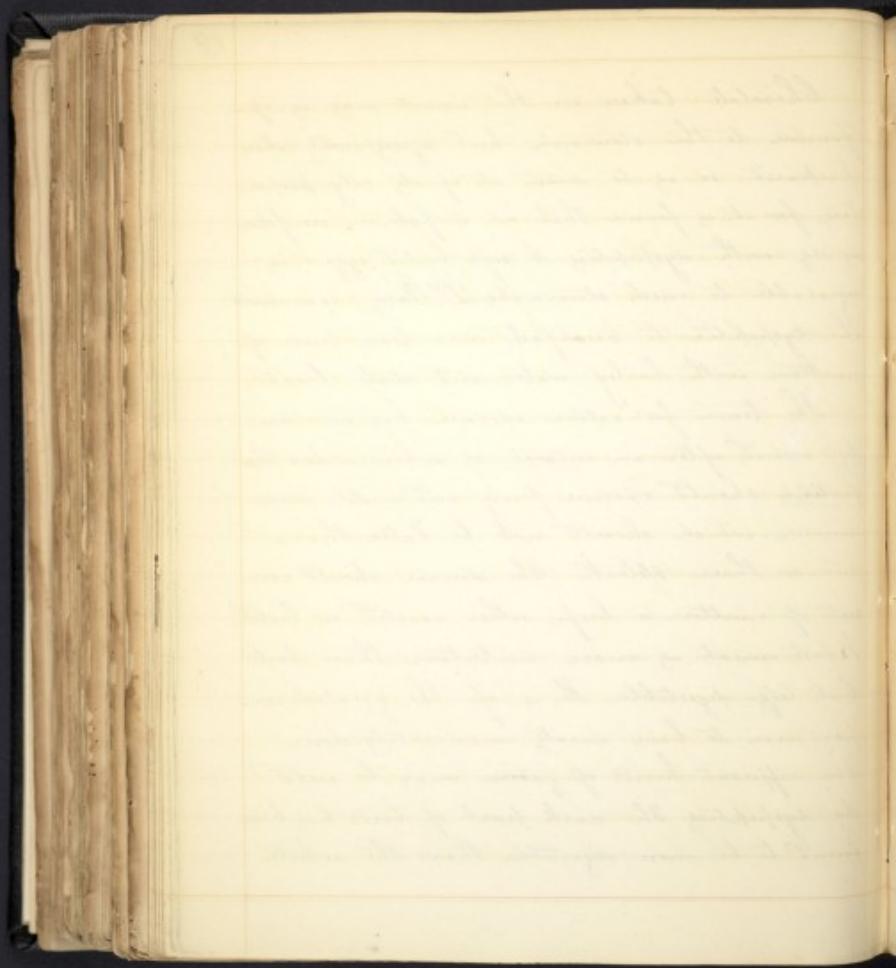
Bread made of the finest flour has a ten-
dency to produce costiveness from the astringency
of the starch, but this may be obviated
by being made of the unboulted flour, technically
called wheaten. The bran in this acts
mechanically on the bowels exciting them to
peristaltic action.

Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate are to be abridged
but when used some particular circumstance
are to be observed. The black is preferable
having less of the narcotic properties than the
green. An infusion of coffee without milk
is the best and only way it should be used.



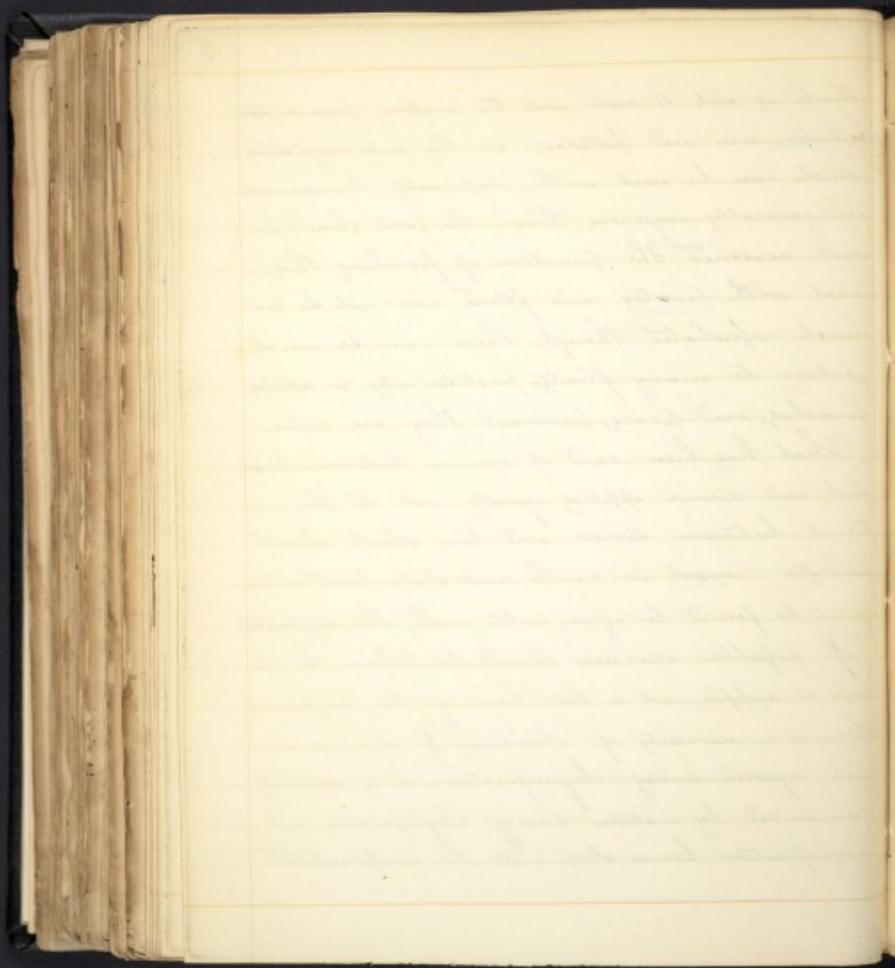
Chocolate taken in the usual way is of
service to the stomach, but agrees well when
prepared so as to divest it of its oily proper-
ties, for it is found that oil or fat, in no form,
agrees with dyspeptics. A soft boiled egg is
agreeable to most stomachs. Dr. Parry recommends
the dyspeptic to breakfast on a lean slice of
mutton with barley water and stale bread.

The time for active exercise has now man-
ly arrived, after an interval of an hour or two the
patient should exercise freely and until near
dinner, which should not be later than
two or three o'clock. The dinner should con-
sist of mutton or beef, either roasted or boiled.
Roast meat is more nutritious than boiled
but less digestible. It is of the greatest im-
portance to have meat moderately done.
The different kinds of game may be used
by dyspeptics. The dark part of birds has been
found to be more digestible than the white.



which is apt to run into the acetous fermentation
Perhaps rice and potatoes are the only vegetables
which can be used with impunity. Condiments
are generally injurious though the food should be
well seasoned. The practice of finishing this
meal with pastry and fruits can not be too
much reprobated, though there can be no ob-
jection to many fruits, particularly to apples,
peaches, and pears, provided they are ripe.

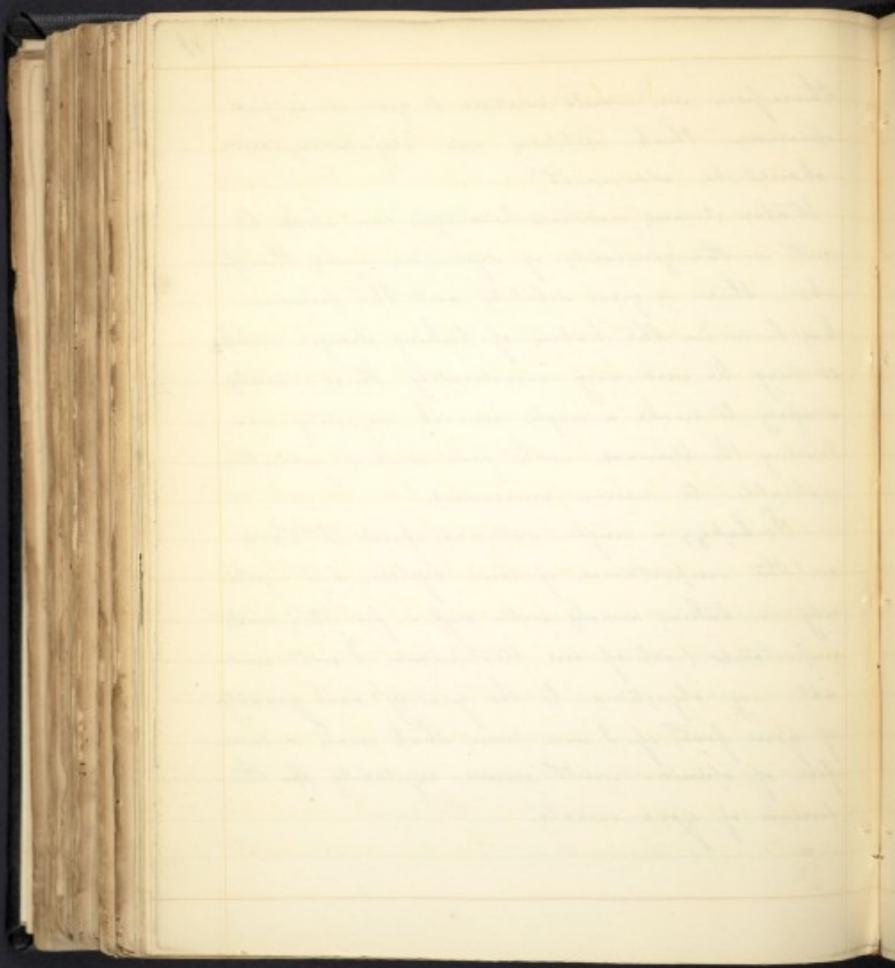
What has been said of exercise between break-
fast and dinner applies equally well to the in-
terval between dinner and tea which should
perhaps consist in milk and stale bread, or tea
if it be found to agree well with the digestion.
If possible exercise should be taken. As it
respects supper at a late hour of the night
there is a diversity of opinion. If exercise be
not required during chymification, it is certainly
demanded by nature during chylification and
sanguification hence sleep will be interrupted.



Therefore we would venture to give it as our opinion that sippers are injurious and should be abandoned.

Water among natural beverages can alone be used in the generality of dyspeptic cases, though where there is great debility and the person has been in the habit of taking stronger drinks, it may be used very moderately. It is scarcely necessary to make a single remark respecting over loading the stomach with food as it is quite too palpable to deserve comment.

Perhaps, a single extract from Dr. Parry on the importance of some system and regularity in taking meals will suffice for this most important part of our treatment. I will waive all my objections to the quality and quantity of your food, if I were sure that such a sacrifice of opinion would ensure regularity for the periods of your meals."

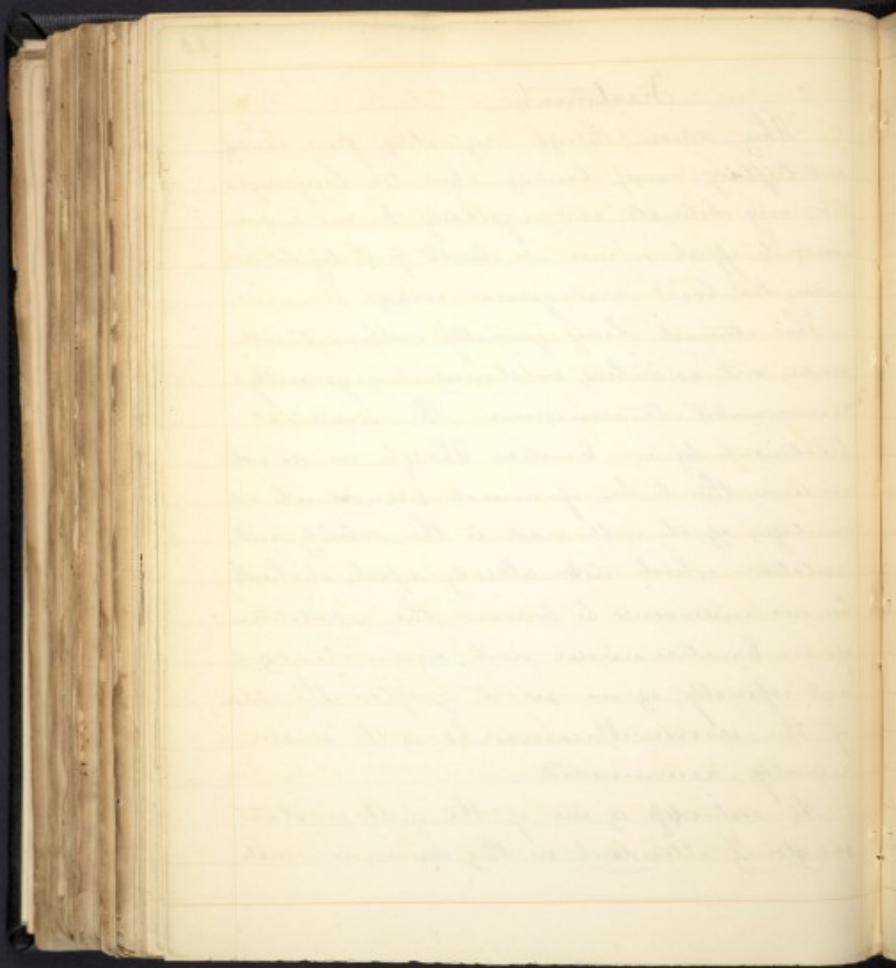


Treatment.

This disease though originating from various and trifling causes, becomes, when too long neglected, very obstinate and unyielding. In our endeavours to effect a cure we should first, try to remove the local and general causes.

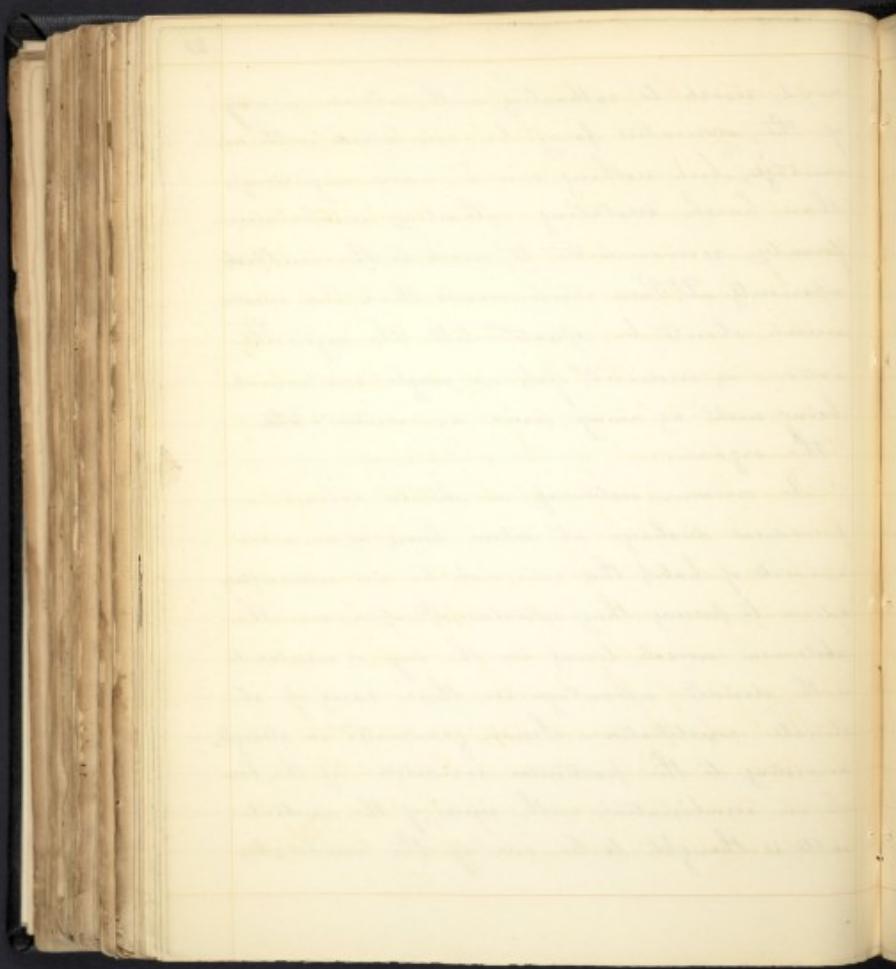
The stomach being generally overloaded with undigested and indigestible substances it is generally recommended to commence the medical treatment by an Emetic. Though we do not conceive this to be of much permanent advantage; as it will add to the debility and irritation which now already exists, it should be our endeavours to prevent the repetition of an Emetic under such circumstances and especially as we see it is often the cause of the disease. Ipecacuanha is the emetic usually recommended.

As costiveness is one of the most constant symptoms attending on this disease, we must



never resort to cathartics, with which many of the aromatics may be combined with advantage, but nothing can be more injurious than harsh irritating cathartics, we are uniformly recommended to resort to the mildest aperient. Dr. Park recommends that the excrement should be repeated till the requisite action is induced, yet no single excrement being such as may prove an irritant ~~to~~ the organ.

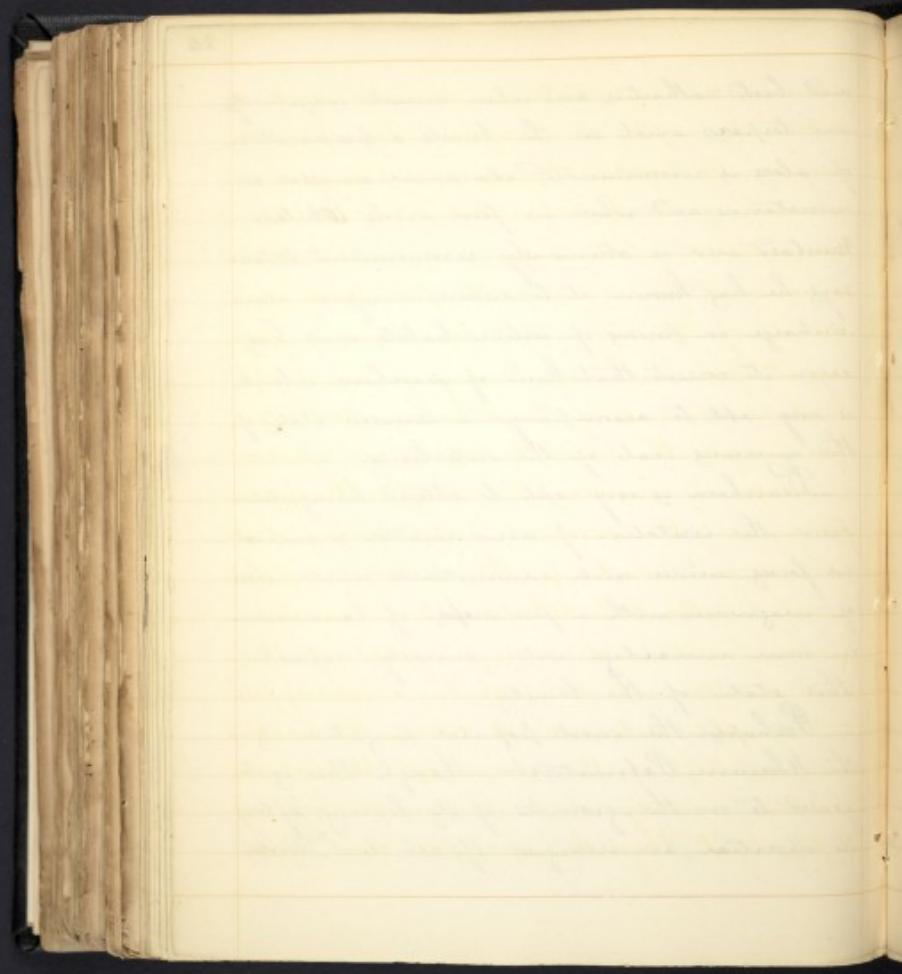
To overcome costiveness we should solicit a periodical discharge at certain hours, as we are animals of habit they can not be an unnecessary advice to persons thus situated. Friction over the abdomen several times in the day is resorted to with decided advantage in those cases of obstinate constipation. Senna, graduated in strength according to the particular condition of the bowels, in combination with some of the neutral salts is thought to be one of the mildest



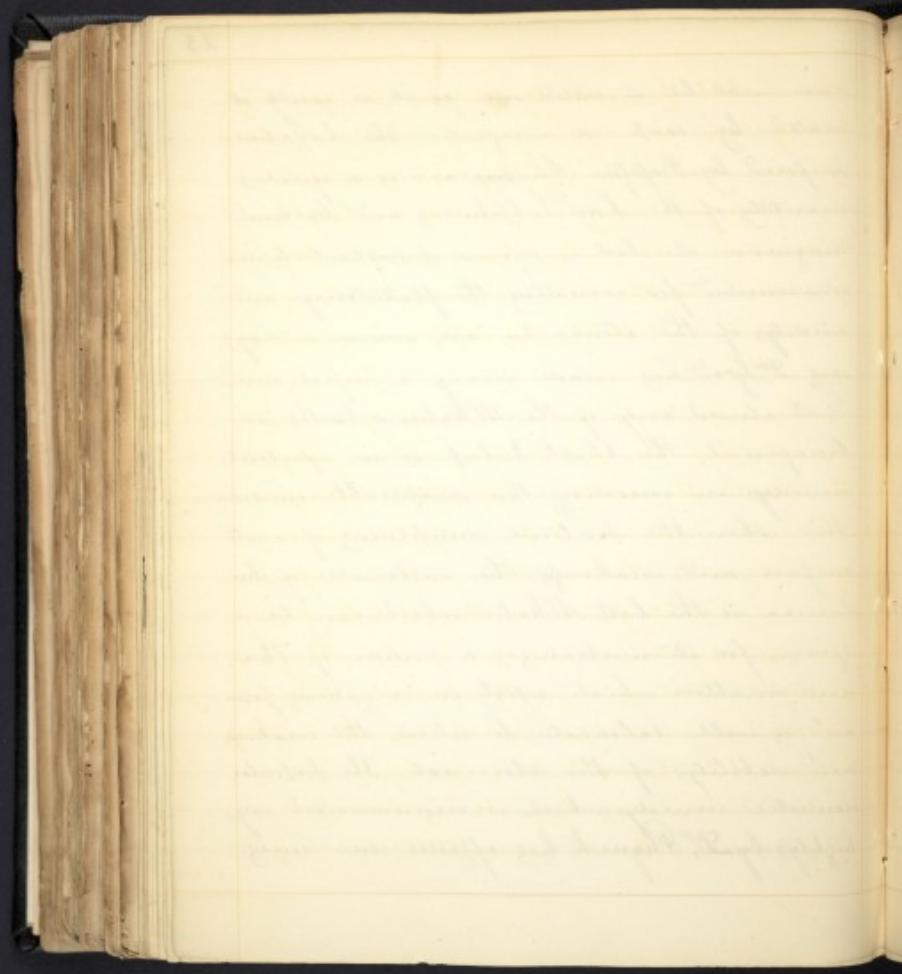
and best cathartics and when much irregularity and torpor exist in the bowels a preparation of aloes is recommended, also under similar circumstances and where no fever exists White Mustard seed is strongly recommended Dr. Lewis says he has known it to ensure a regular saline discharge in persons of constine habits, and has seen its effect that kind of diarrhoea which is very apt to accompany a diseased state of the mucous coat of the intestines.

Diarrhoea is very apt to attend indigestion from the irritation of acrid matter or impacted feces, under such circumstances small doses of magnesia with a few drops of laudanum in some rameilage will generally relieve this state of the bowels.

Perhaps the most popular purgative is the Aloeum Palmatum; though this is objected to on the grounds of its leaving, after its operation, an astringent effect, but ^{this} objection

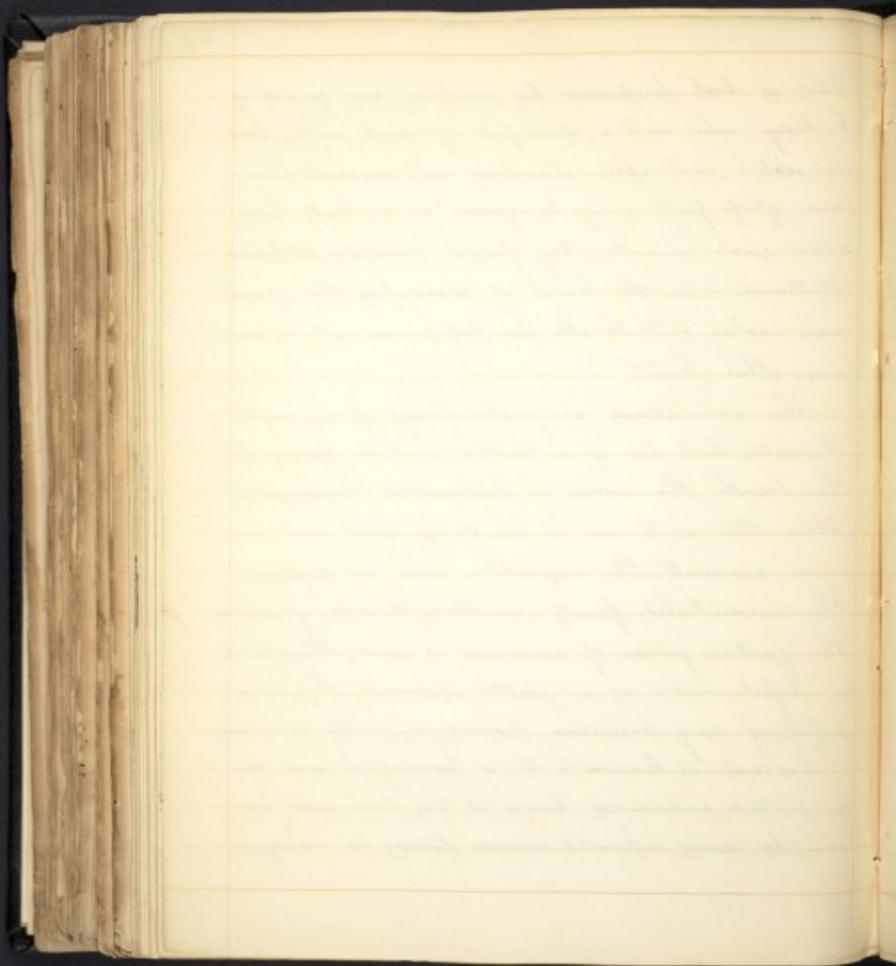


can not be a valid one as it is easily obviated by soap or magnesia. The laxative preferred by Professor Chapyrus is a equal quantity of the Lax Sulphuris and Calcined Magnesia. The last medicine is particularly recommended for correcting the flatulence and acidity of the stomach; an ounce a day say Dr. Good has made many a perfect cure. But almost any of the Alkalies or Earths are beneficial; the chalk Tulus is an excellent remedy in correcting this disagreeable eructation. And when the patient complaining of a cold surface and weakness, the carbonate of Ammonia is the best Alkalie which can be given, for it neutralizes a portion of the acid matters which exist in a gaseous form and is well calculated to relieve the weakness and debility of the stomach. The popular domestic remedy which is recommended very highly by Dr. Physick has effected some cure.



This is best prepared by mixing one quart of hickory ashes and a spoonful of sourish with boiling water and after standing and decanted two wine glasses full may be given in an half hour after each meal. My former preceptor Dr. Soland Mellemae is in the habit of prescribing the grape vine ashes, and thinks they possess some virtues over any other kind.

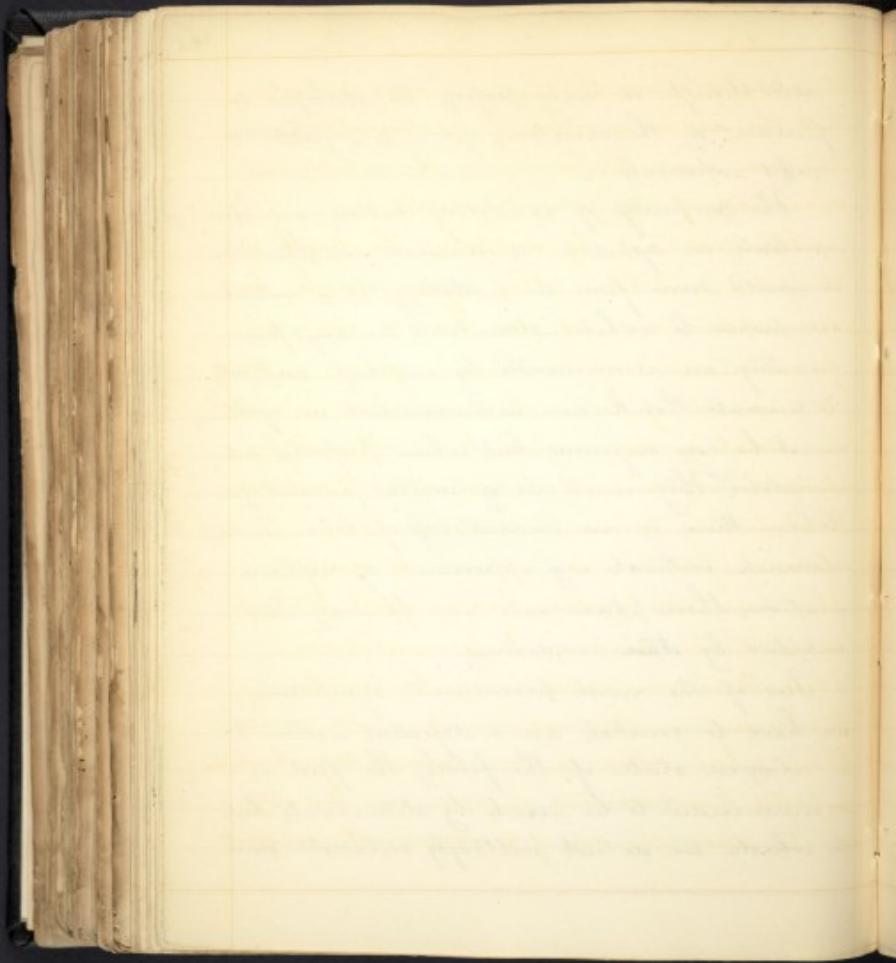
The eructations are not always of an acid character, but are of a putrid nature giving to the breath the odour of carburetted Hydrogen. Then the acids are to be freely used, and on some account the vegetable acids are preferred. The acidulated fruits are thought to be of service. The gastric juice of animals is used, though it is useful more as a gentle aperient, than as possessing any peculiar power over the secreting. Charcoal is known to be a powerful corrector of putrid substances hence it has been used, in scrupulously doses, repeated several times a day.



and though it may possess no specific influence on the secretion, yet it is a gentle & mild aperient.

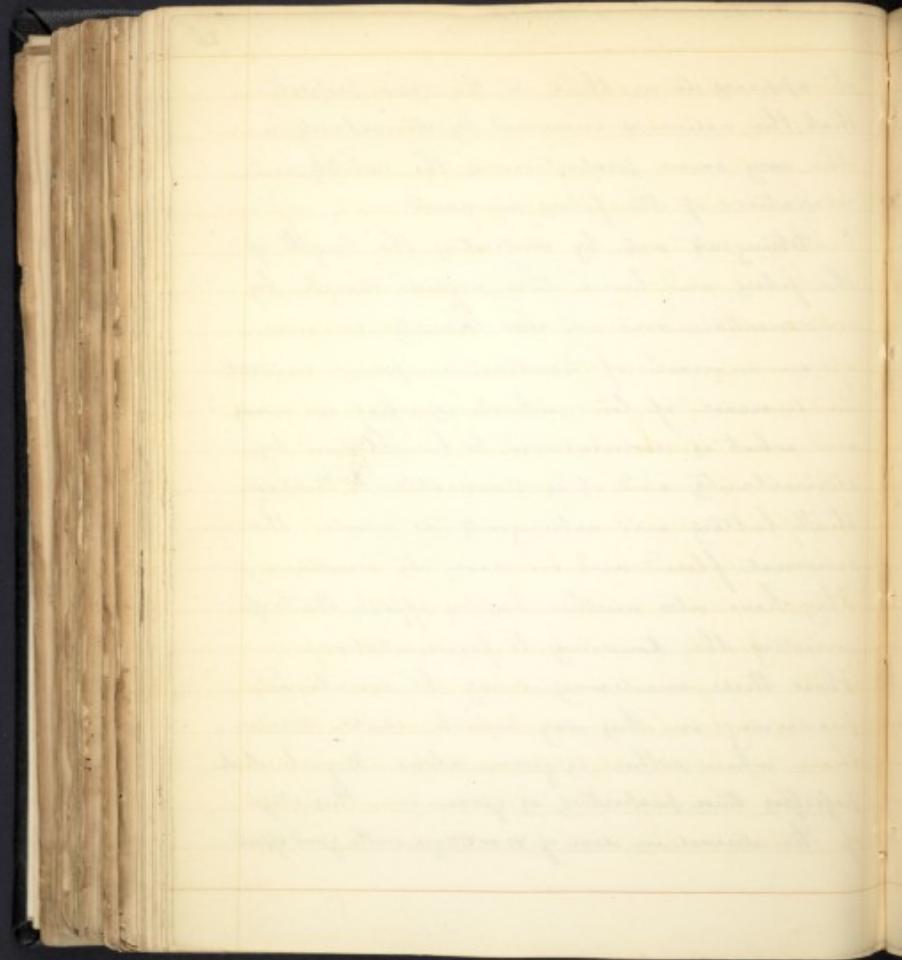
The propriety of exhibiting bitters and stimulants in dyspepsia is somewhat doubtful, & it would seem from the pathology it is not at all proper to exhibit stimulants in any form, but they are recommended by very high authority. We would think an indiscriminate use of them must be very injurious, but when properly administered they must be of decided advantage. When there is an evident loss of tone in the stomach without any appearance of inflammation, their place can not be very well supplied by other medicines.

Two of the most prominent symptoms we have to combat are a deficient action & a relaxed state of the fibers; the first is recommended to be met by stimulants but to which we do not willingly subscribe since



it appears to us that in the same proportion
that the action is increased by stimulants in
the very same proportion is the contractility and
relaxation of the fibers increased.

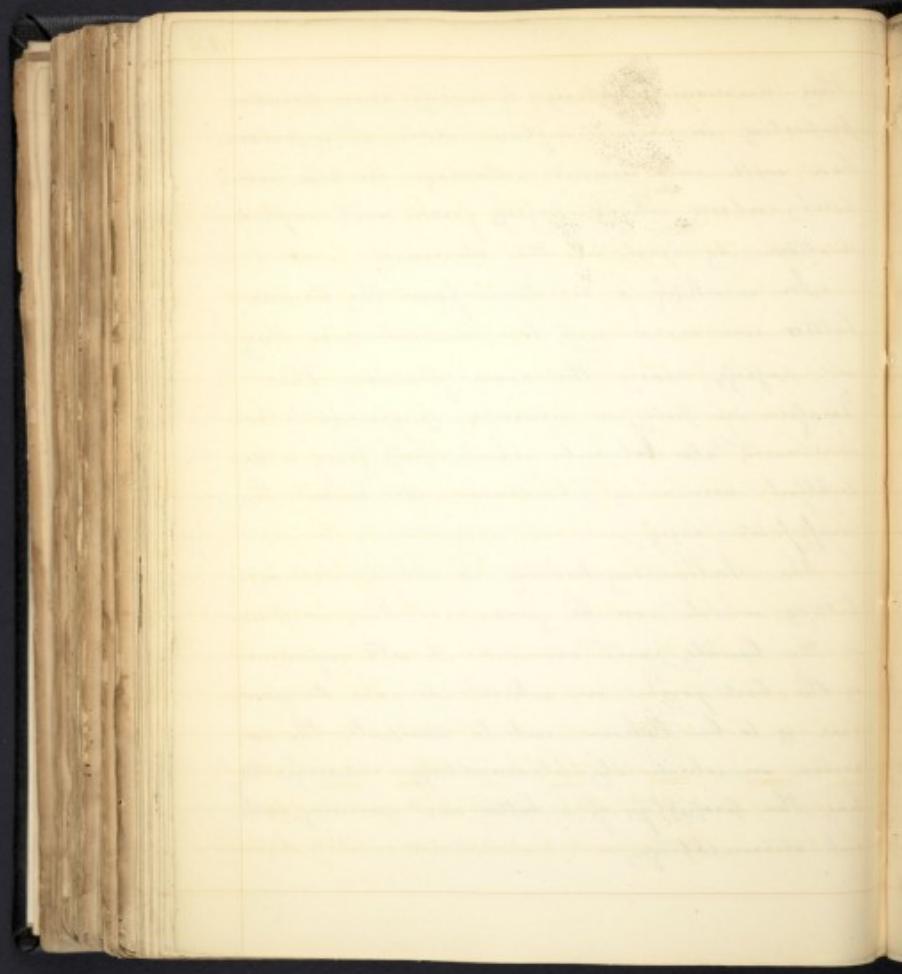
Astringents act by contracting the length of
the fibers and hence they acquire strength by
condensation, and we can hardly conceive
of an increase of contractile power without
an increase of tone, which is what we want
and what is recommended to be obtained by
stimulants and it is reasonable to suppose
that bitters and astringents do excite the
sensorial fluid and increase its secretion.
They have also another happy effect that of
correcting the tendency to fermentation.
These three medicines may be combined,
producing in this way much more service
than when either is given alone. Myrrh which
possesses these properties, is given in this stage
of the disease, in dose of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ drams, with good effect.



They medicine appear to possess some peculiar properties in chronic inflammation; it is preserved with very decided advantage in old indolent ulcers which possess just such inflammation as exists in the stomach.

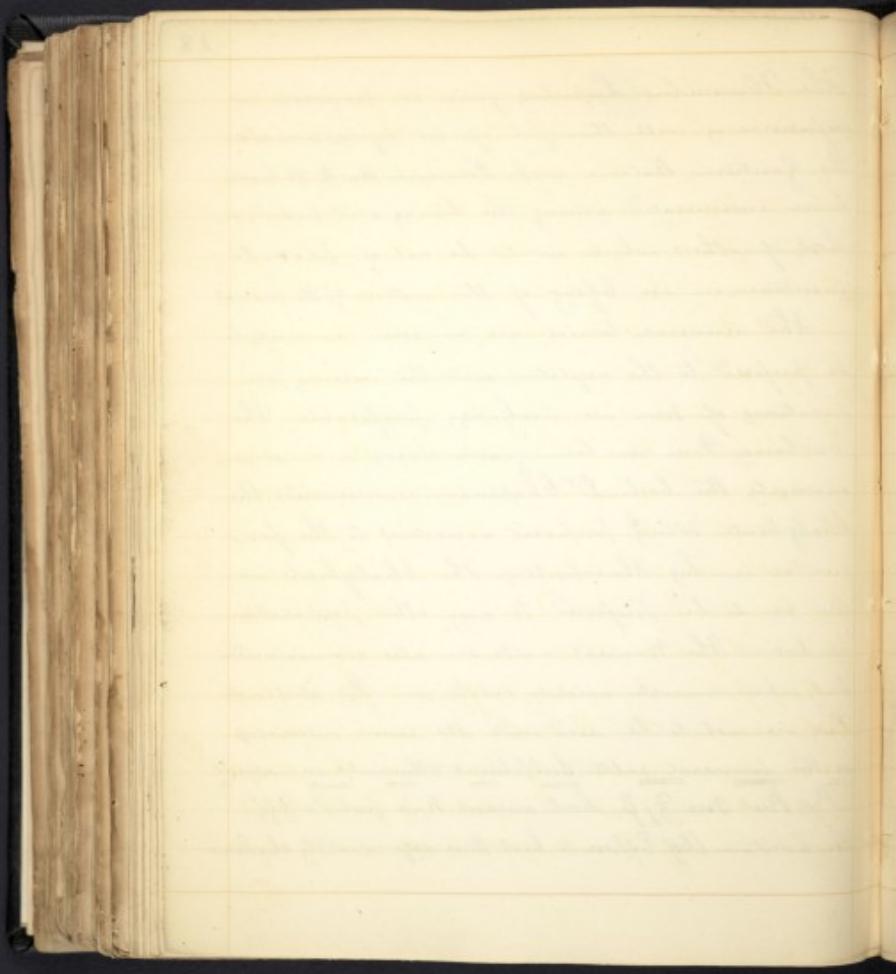
In making a selection from the simple bitters we need not be particular as they all possess nearly the same qualities. The Iuafia in pills or infusion is frequently recommended, also Columba which possessing a delightful aroma, is peculiarly well suited to dyspeptic cases.

The Anthemis Nobilis is one of the best bitters which can be given in this condition of the bowels and stomach. A cold infusion is the best form in which it can be given, care is to be taken not to dissipate the aroma on which its pleasantness consists, it has the properties of a bitter and warming, without stimulating.



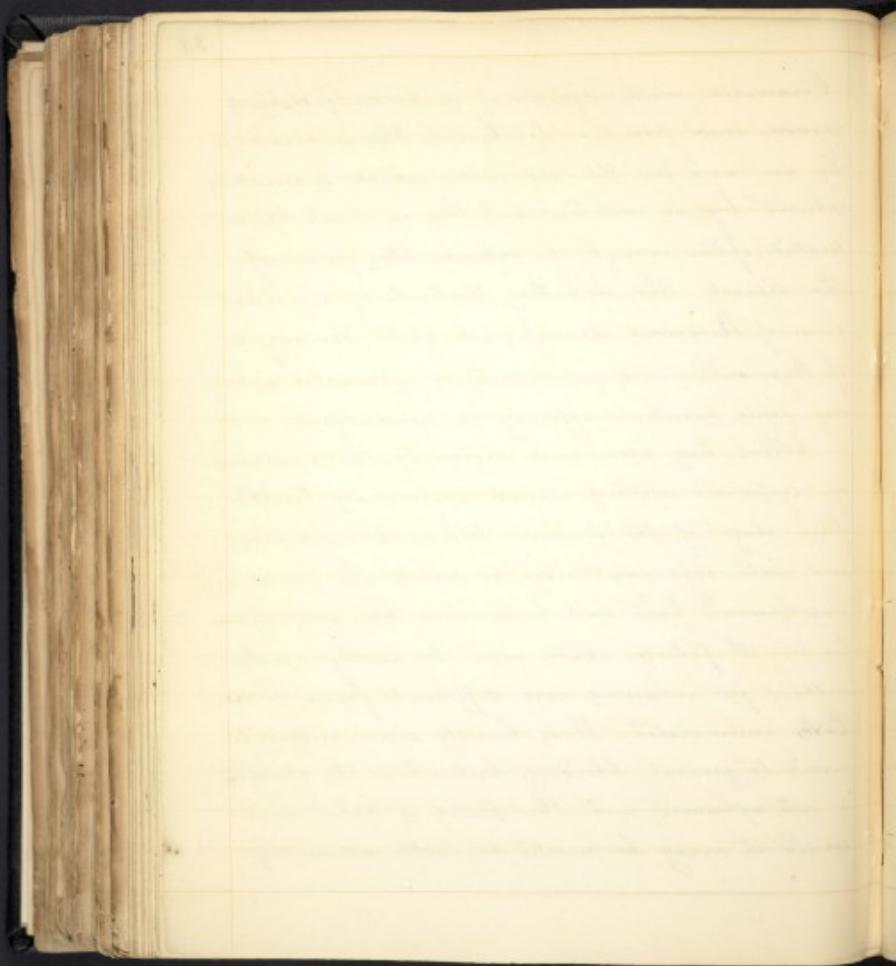
The Humming Lepidium given in powder or infusion is well thought of in dyspepsia, also the Gentian, Katana roots, Peruvian Bark &c have been enumerated among the tonics and indeed a host of others which would be out of place to mention, in an Essay of the nature of the present.

The mineral tonics are on some account to be prefered to the vegetal, and the various preparations of Iron are perhaps preferable. The Carbonate of Iron in ten grain doses is on some account the best. Dr Chapman recommends the Chalybeate Wine prepared according to the formula in his Therapeutics. The Chalybeate waters are to be preferred to any other preparation of Iron. The Mineral acids are also recommended but where much acidity exists in the stomach they are not to be used with the same advantage as the mineral salts. Sulphuric & Muriatic are mentioned
 Rx Rul. Pdr. 3ʒf, Cork. aurant. Rad. gent. &c 3ʒf,
 New Haven U.S. Expose to heat three days, repeatedly shaken.

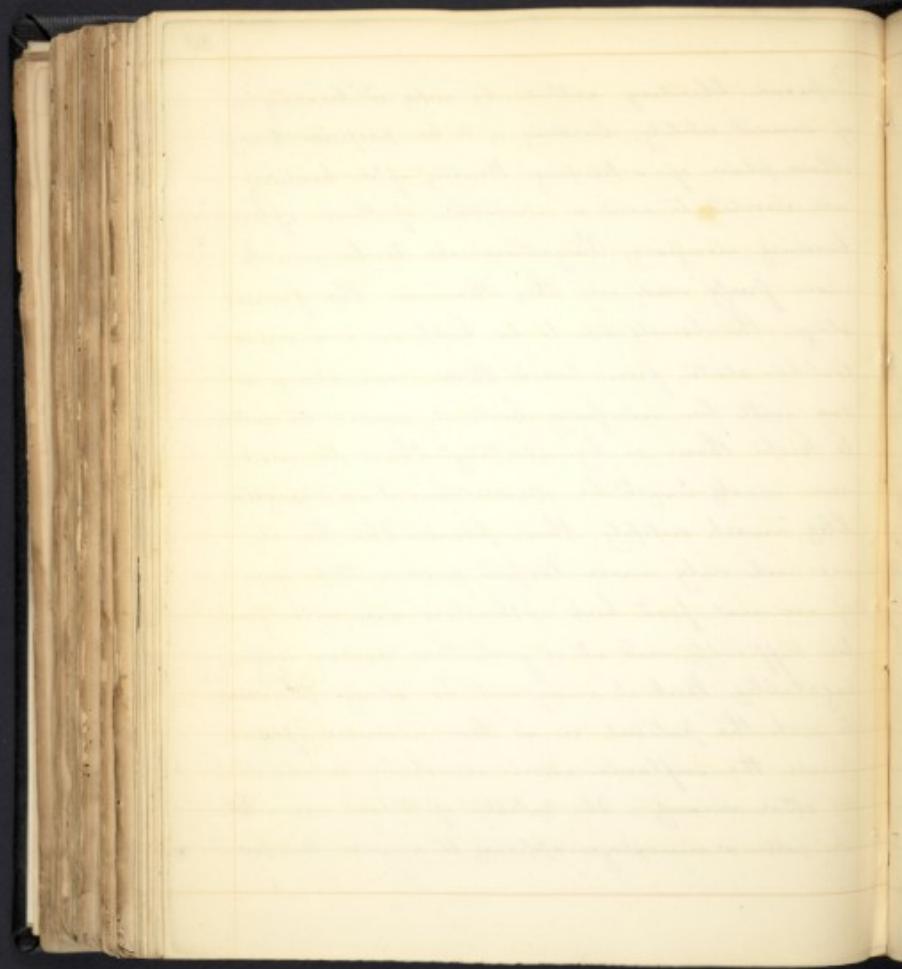


Connected with dyspepsia is Cardialgia, which requires some peculiar treatment. This is occasioned by an acid in the stomach, which is sometimes relieved by an emetic, but this can not be repeated often enough to relieve this form of the disease. The Alkalies, particularly in the form of Riverous draught, are good. The oyster of Baysmouth (in 1/2 grain doses) is represented as having some peculiar efficacy in cardialgia.

What has been said respecting the treatment of dyspepsia applies almost exclusively to the first stage of the disease. We will now proceed with the second stage or where the pulse has become hard and tense and the epigastrium tenacious. A febrile state now evidently exists, calling for measures very different from those last enumerated. It is hardly ever necessary to resort to general bleeding, but when the strength is not exhausted and the pulse is hard and coruscating it may be resorted to with advantage.



Ipsoral bleeding either by cups or leeching is of decided utility; leeching is to be preferred to any other plan of depleting. Blistering after leeching are resorted to and a repetition of them often becomes necessary. Purgatives are to be much more freely used in this than in the former stage, the bowels are to be kept in a more soluble state, from two to three evacuations a day will be necessary, but it would be better to keep them so by dieting, than by medicine, meaty must be discontinued and vegetablis must supply their place. The bowels are not only more torpid under the use of animal food, but cathartics act with greater difficulty, and it is just the reverse with vegetables. But it may not be always prudent to put the patient on so low a course of diet, hence the inflammation must be subdued by other means. The nitrate of Potash, in a little gum or mucilage appears to answer this purpose.

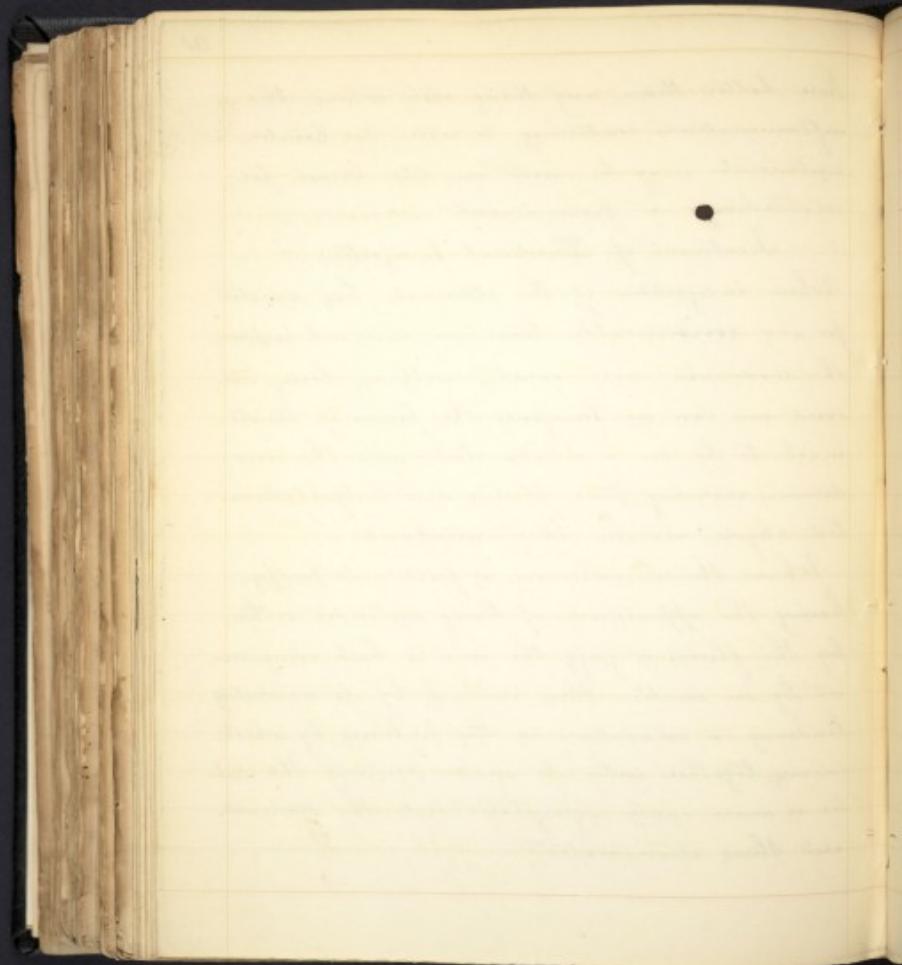


pose better than any thing else, when the inflammation continuing to recur the Emetic ointment may be used on the breast, for establishing a permanent drain.

Treatment of Duodenal Indigestion.

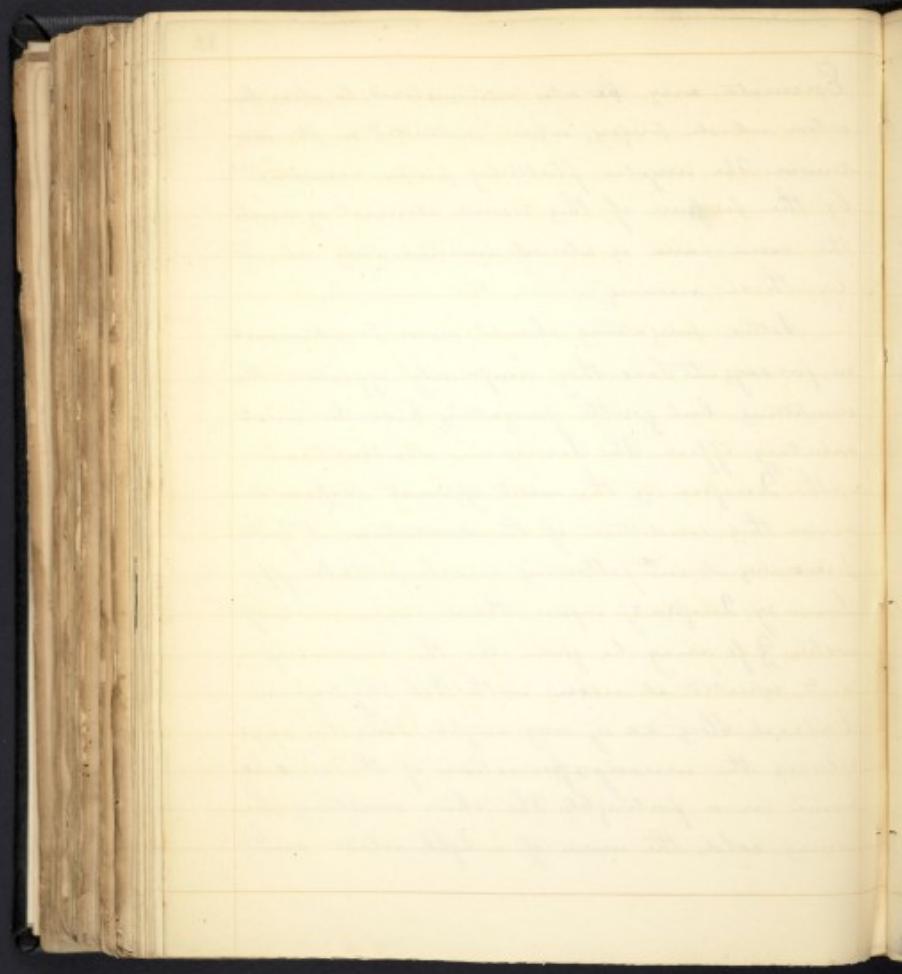
Where indigestion of the stomach has existed for any considerable time we can not suppose the duodenum will escape without being diseased, nor can we imagine the fluids of the stomach to be in a vivified state and the duodenum, receiving these fluids and half elaborated chyme, remain long unimpaired.

When the duodenum is full and puffy, having the appearance of being distended either by the fluids or gas, the cure is best commenced by an emetic. This produces by its nauseating tendency a relaxation on the pylorus by which means, together with its emetic property, the matter is more easily regurgitated into the stomach and thus eliminated.



Emetics may be also administered to clear the colon which preys, when distended, on the duodenum. The irregular fluttering pulse occasioned by the pressure of this second stomach against the vena cava is almost immediately relieved by these means.

Active purgatives should never be administered, for says Dr. Paris they uniformly aggravate the symptoms, but gentle purgatives have the most salutary effect. The Senna in combination with Ceratonia is the most approved preparation under this condition of the duodenum. Dr. Yates prescribes it in the following manner. Take off Senna 3*ij*. Ceratonia 3*j*. infuse them in a pint of water, 3*fl. oz.* may be given in the morning and repeated at noon; with Pil. Hydrogi and Epsom Salts 2*oz* *ij* every night. This he says relieves the uneasiness pervading of the duodenum in a fortnight. The skin sometimes becomes cold, the urine of a light colour and



very appearance of debility and weakness during this condition of things. The Spiritus Ammonia Aromatico should be added to the bitter infusion. But there is a very different condition of the system from the last, the pulse is hard and tense, the urine high coloured, the skin hot and indeed every appearance of a febrile paroxysm; under such a situation in the place of the senna may be substituted some of the neutral salts, and the Sulphate of Potash has the character of being almost a specific in this particular circumstance of the duodenum. When there is much heat in the region of the stomach and duodenum, the saline draught in a state of effervescence may be administered with good effect.

Joel W. Dugay
Po. Edward City
Virginia.

